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PLUS: The greatest footballer of all time revealed in the MAGAZINE

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PLUS: 1015 FOR YOUNG TIMES READERS, CARS AND THE DUREPOTZ WISHES



Now the cocky Aussies want to take the Ashes home

BY ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

NOT satisfied with winning their fifth consecutive Ashes cricket series, the Australians want to flaunt their supremacy by taking the famous urn home. Having 'mumbled and grumbled' for years that it is inequitable for the Ashes to stay

permanently in England, they have decided to make the objection official.

Even as England fought back in the summer's final Test at the Oval yesterday — Philip Tufnell took seven wickets to lift home crowd spirits — the trophy commemorating a game on the ground more than a century ago was being dis-

cussed in Melbourne. An Australian Cricket Board meeting passed a unanimous motion to request the Ashes be released from Lord's — their home for the past 70 years. A letter is on its way to the MCC. It must be dealt with by the full MCC committee, not scheduled to meet until October 15.

The Australians would like their

team to pack the urn when they travel home next week but last night Roger Knight, the MCC secretary, ruled that out. He also indicated that the Australians should not raise their hopes, saying it was highly unlikely that prize exhibit would be moved from the MCC museum.

There will be many who feel sympathy for the Australians' case and,

having had 17 Ashes Test victories in the past ten years to England's three, Australia are in a mood to press their claim.

Many are the legends about the Ashes but no one doubts they can be traced to the Oval Test of August 1882. Australia won by seven runs — England's first home defeat — and a London journalist, Reginald Shir-

ley Brooks, wrote an "obituary" in the *Sporting Times*, saying: "In affectionate remembrance of English cricket... Deeply lamented by a large circle of sorrowing friends and acquaintances. RIP. NB. The body will be cremated and the Ashes taken to Australia."

Test report, page 50

New CJD strain threatens thousands

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE number of cases of CJD could run into thousands, scientists fear, after the disclosure that a woman who has been vegetarian for 11 years is suffering from the new strain of the disease.

If the condition of Clare Tompkins, 24, was caused by her eating BSE-infected beef, she must have contracted the disease before 1986, the year in which the first case of BSE in cattle was confirmed.

If this proves to be anything like the typical incubation period, it would dash any lingering hopes that the relatively few cases of the disease represent the peak of the epidemic and would not rise further.

A study published earlier this year in the science journal *Nature* predicted between 156 and 213 cases with a ten-year incubation period, between 620 and 1,595 for a 15-year period, between 2,179 and 12,000 with a 20-year period and between 7,000 and 88,000 with a 25-year period. Infected cattle take five years on average to develop the disease. Researchers will now also have to investigate whether meat may be infectious from cattle at an earlier stage of incubation of BSE than previously thought. If that is true many other people might have been infected by eating meat in the 1980s.

Another avenue for sci-

entists to explore could be the possibility that milk and cheese might be a source of infection, but most scientists believe Miss Tompkins is most likely to have eaten beef infected with BSE, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, before she turned vegetarian.

John Parton, professor of medical microbiology at University College, London, who chairs the committee which advises the Government on CJD, said: "It is an unusual case, because of the long history of vegetarianism, but I do not think it destroys our hypothesis that the most probable route for infection with the new strain of CJD is food containing contaminated beef."

Professor John Collinge, another member of the committee who heads the specialist CJD research unit at St Mary's Hospital, London, where Miss Tompkins' condition was diagnosed, said: "There is as yet no way of predicting whether Britain, and possibly Europe, will be confronted by, in medical terms, a very limited problem, or by a major epidemic."

To date there have been only 22 cases of the new strain of CJD, three in 1995, ten in 1996 and nine so far this year, including that of Miss Tompkins.

Vegetarianism and CJD, p 18

Father tells of fears

By RICHARD DUCE

AS Clare Tompkins, 24, lies motionless in the bedroom of the detached house where she played as a child, her father constantly fields calls from journalists trying to establish how she became the latest victim of a new variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

Roger Tompkins, a company director, has no answers. His daughter, who has been brought home to die, was a vegetarian for 11 years, yet now is stricken with an illness linked to "mad cow" disease. What he does have is the fear that his daughter's awful and rapid descent from a bright and bubbly woman into a near comatose state could

become a reality for others. Throughout an hour-long interview Mr Tompkins presses home his simple message: that parents and the medical profession should both be alerted to symptoms which in his daughter were diagnosed as acute depression for more than six months.

In October last year Miss Tompkins was looking forward to marriage to Andrew, her fiancé of three years, and to her work as manager of a pet department at a local garden centre. Her love of animals drove her to give up eating meat when she was 13 and a proportion of her wages was sent monthly by direct debit to an animal charity.

Mr Tompkins, 51, who lives near Tonbridge, Kent, said: "Andrew noticed that she was becoming withdrawn and didn't want to go out anymore. Before that she was bubbly with a fantastic sense of humour."

Clare was prescribed antidepressants by her GP and diagnosed as suffering from acute anxiety. She was forced to stop work when it became clear her treatment was not working. By January this year Mr Tompkins and his wife Dawn, 53, were feeling increasingly powerless in help-

Continued on page 2, col 5



Diana, Princess of Wales with Dodi Fayed in St Tropez yesterday during her fourth cruise in five weeks. Page 3

Girls' school tops the A-level table

The sixth-formers of Widdington School, Manchester, who had a record score for GCSE two years ago, have repeated their performance to make it the first girls' school to top *The Times* A-level league table. St Paul's Girls' School, London, is second.

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Philanderer Clark set to convert to Catholicism

By OUR DIARY STAFF

ALAN CLARK, the Conservative MP, historian and diarist, who admitted that he deserved to be horsewhipped for his adulterous behaviour, is expected to convert to Roman Catholicism.

Mr Clark has been taking instruction from the priest who has brought John Gummer and Ann Widdecombe, his fellow Conservative politicians, into the fold and is expected to be received into the Church shortly.

Father Michael Seed, ecclesiastical adviser to the Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Basil Hume, and an unofficial chaplain to Parliament, has been seeing Mr Clark for some time.

"He makes no secret of our meetings and our friendship, but whether he will or won't convert I cannot say. As a priest, I couldn't say any more

than that," Father Seed said. However, a senior member of the Church said this week that Mr Clark was on the brink of "coming over". He said: "We almost have him."

Mr Clark's conversion would be the latest of a string of high-profile defections from the Anglican faith the like of which has not been seen since Evelyn Waugh and other literary glitterati beat a path to Rome in the 1930s and 1940s.

Father Seed had similar long sessions with John Gummer, the former Cabinet minister, and Ann Widdecombe, the former Prisons Minister, to help them to make the leap.

The Duchess of Kent and Frances Shand Kydd, the mother of Diana, Princess of Wales, have also become Roman Catholics.

Father Seed, 40, is a member of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement who was born into an evangelical Protestant family in Manchester but became a Catholic at the age of 17 after several years as a Baptist.

He has officiated at the wedding of a cousin of the Duke of Norfolk and written a book recording the views on the afterlife of 100 personalities, including Sir John Gielgud and the Dalai Lama. He also puts in long hours talking to less eminent figures and hearing confessions and celebrating Mass at Westminster Cathedral.

It is not known whether he will be on the scene when Mr Clark kneels for the first time to make his confession. The MP himself is believed to be putting the finishing touches to his history of the Conservative Party and was unavailable to comment yesterday.

Left-wing anger as Saatchi gets millennium role

By ANDREW PIERCE AND JAMES LANDALE

PETER MANDELSON faced a left-wing backlash last night after it emerged that M&C Saatchi, the Tories favourite advertising agency, has been awarded the £16 million advertising contract for the Greenwich dome.

The Government's difficulties over the £250 million project deepened as it emerged that the German company sacked from the £6 million contract to construct the skin of the dome is seeking damages of more than £2 million.

The decision by the New Millennium Experience Company to give the prestigious contract to M&C Saatchi has also caused disquiet in the advertising industry. Two of the company's senior partners were key advisers on the millennium celebrations.

But it was the idea of appointing M&C Saatchi, which created "New Labour, New Danger", ridiculed Tony Blair as Helmut Kohl's puppet and ran the demon eyes poster censured by the Advertising Standards Authority, that proved the last straw for many left-wing Labour MPs.

Ken Purchase, the Labour MP for Wolverhampton North East, said: "It would not have been my choice. I would not let enemies of the Labour

Party run a chip shop let alone be given millions of pounds of lottery money to promote the dome, which many people don't even want. What an extraordinary state of affairs."

Ronnie Campbell, the MP for Blyth Valley, was surprised that Mr Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio who is in charge of the project, had not blocked their appointment. During the election campaign Mr Mandelson described the demon eyes posters as "despicable".

"The agency is a waste of money," Mr Campbell said. "No one believed their lies about Labour during the election... why should they believe anything they have got to say about the dome?"

The Tories accused the millennium company of a potential conflict of interest over the appointment. Bill Muirhead, a partner in M&C Saatchi, was acting communications director of the millennium company until the middle of June. He stood down from the unpaid role when the search for an advertising agency began. Jeremy Sinclair, the agency's creative force, was also an adviser. He left at the same time. Now the Tories are accusing the Government of "jobs for the boys".

In Esquire this month:

"If an alcoholic is someone who relies on a drink to get through the day, then yes, I suppose I am one" **Frank Skinner Esq**

"There's gonna be a new movement that's got little to do with music, but lots to do with attitude" **Liam Gallagher Esq**

"I thought, why dress like that when you can look like Elvis?" **Mark Lonsdale Esq**

"It is impossible to create such a spectrum of guns without love for these weapons" **Michael Kalashnikov Esq**

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THE TIMES

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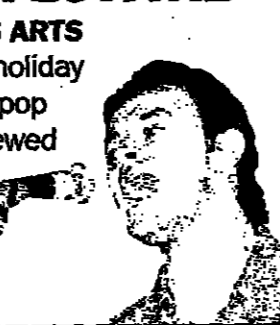
BULLYING

TWO DAY SERIES
Ranulph Fiennes and John Hegley recall their experiences



READING FESTIVAL

TIMES ARTS
Bank holiday Britpop reviewed



Senior banker warns of £300 tartan tax

By NICHOLAS WATT
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A LEADING Scottish banker yesterday warned that the average wage earner could be worse off by more than £300 a year under the Government's plans for a tax-varying parliament in Edinburgh.

As the campaign for next month's referendum intensified, Sir Bruce Patullo, the Governor of the Bank of Scotland, said that a different tax regime would "stick out like a sore thumb".

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, who joined Labour's campaign for a Yes vote in Glasgow yesterday, dismissed Sir Bruce's remarks. "Play around with your money but just leave us to get on with our politics," he said as he opened a new taxi depot in a Glasgow suburb.

Sir Bruce's intervention, which was supported by the entire board of the bank, was carefully designed to provoke a debate about the dangers of increased taxes in the final weeks of the campaign.

Although opinion polls in Scotland indicate overwhelming support for a parliament, many Labour voters have indicated that they will vote against giving the body the power to raise taxes. In the latest Scotsman/ICM poll, 68 per cent of voters said they would vote Yes to the first question which will ask whether a parliament should be established. More than half (56 per cent) said they would vote Yes to the second question on whether the parliament should have "tax-varying powers".

Sir Bruce warned voters that they could be worse off by £6 a week if the parliament chose to raise taxes. He also accused ministers of misleading voters because the wording in the referendum left open the possibility that the parliament could raise more than just income tax. The phrase "tax-varying" in the referendum question is vaguer than last month's White Paper on the parliament, which recommended that the body should have the power to increase or decrease only the basic rate of income tax by a maximum of three pence.

Sir Bruce told The Scots-



John Prescott blows a saxophone while campaigning in Falkirk yesterday for a Yes vote in the referendum on a Scottish parliament. He told Sir Bruce to keep out of politics

man: "In the United Kingdom [Scots] are going to live in a region which has a different tax regime and it is going to stick out like a sore thumb. I do not want to dramatise the situation. It will be slow and corrosive."

Campaigners for a Scottish parliament rounded on Sir Bruce. Alex Salmond, the leader of the Scottish National Party, who used to work for the rival Royal Bank of Scotland, dismissed Sir Bruce's remarks as "pure folly". Speaking at the launch of his party's campaign in Glasgow, Mr Salmond said: "As an

individual, Bruce is entitled to say what he pleases. But it is slightly worrying and slightly strange that he should do so and start a yes-no campaign as the Bank of Scotland itself."

Alistair Darling, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, dismissed Sir Bruce's fears. He told BBC Radio: "Most people, on mature reflection, will see that most of the things that Sir Bruce is saying simply do not bear up or stand up. We have made sure there is [a level playing field] because the end of February until after Easter and during that time there was no progress. We brought her home because we felt that maybe she just needed love and care."

"Her weight loss was frightening. She was normally about 7st 3lb and we struggled to get her over 5st 10lb by giving her nutritional drinks. Up until March she was still concerned about her appearance and was putting on make-up... we took her on a short break to Norfolk but by May 10 we realised she was getting worse." Clare was readmitted to the private clinic two days later.

May 13 will never be forgotten by Mr Tompkins. It was Clare's birthday and father and daughter had their last conversation. "We simply talked about how it was her 24th birthday and how much we all loved her," he said. "Because of her illness she could not open her cards and presents, so we did it for her."

Mr Tompkins said Clare's

Sir Bruce's comments indicate that a significant proportion of the Scottish business community is opposed to tax-varying powers. Scottish Financial Enterprise, whose members include the Bank of Scotland, Scottish Widows and BT, has warned that higher taxes would drive businesses over the border.

But supporters of devolution say that increasing numbers of business leaders have embraced the idea of a parliament. The Royal Bank of Scotland said it was "perfectly relaxed" about the referendum.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Skeleton puzzle and a DNA Dales hunt

Samples of DNA are to be taken from people in a Yorkshire Dales village in an attempt to identify living descendants of the pre-historic skeleton of a young man found by Yorkshire Electricity workers 18 inches below the ground in a field in Kettlewell, near Skipton.

Archaeologists are baffled the find as one of the most significant in years. The skeleton — thought to be more than 4,000 years old — was found curled up in the foetal position, suggesting a pre-Christian burial.

It is thought he died from natural causes. Scientists from Bradford University's department of Archaeological Sciences are studying the remains to determine the age and sex of the skeleton and cause of death. Another grave was found nearby two weeks ago.

Loyalist in-fighting

Fending loyalist paramilitaries carried out tit-for-tat petrol bomb attacks in Londonderry and fired shots. A teenage girl suffered facial burns when two petrol bombs were thrown into a house. Nobody else was injured. Police blamed the violence on rivals in the UVF and the UDA. "None of these attacks was sectarian," a spokesman said.

Police pay plan dropped

Plans to introduce performance-related pay for Britain's senior police officers have been abandoned after chief constables protested that it could undermine their independence. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, has agreed a new pay package for chief constables, deputies and assistants which drops linking pay with their performance.

Thieves threaten cat

A couple were robbed at knifepoint by a gang who threatened to microwave their cat. The three men stole Cartier and Rolex watches. They then threatened to kill the cat by putting it into the microwave oven unless the couple handed over jewellery and a stereo system. Police have only just disclosed details of the attack 12 days ago.

Migrant smuggler jailed

A Frenchman was jailed for 2½ years yesterday at Maidstone Crown Court for attempting to smuggle nine Chinese illegal immigrants through the Channel Tunnel. Mario Fernandez-Neira, 26, of Paris, maintained that he thought he was only carrying two people in his Mercedes van and a judge sentenced him on that basis.

Paedophile priest dies

Brendan Smyth, the paedophile priest whose extradition case brought down the Irish Government in 1994, died last night after a suspected heart attack. Smyth, 69, was serving a 12-year sentence in Ireland for abusing 20 boys and girls in his care. He had previously served four years in Northern Ireland for similar offences.

Loseley heir's funeral

The funeral was held yesterday of 12-year-old Christopher Moore-Moham, a member of the Loseley dairy family who died on Monday in an accident on a child's motorcycle. More than 300 mourners joined his parents and their three other children in the packed village church in Compton, Surrey.

Father tells of last birthday

Continued from page 1

ing their daughter and eventually decided to book her into a private psychiatric clinic. "But she would be crying most of the time and her eyesight was becoming affected and she was losing a lot of weight. She began to get double vision... her memory loss was such that she couldn't remember what she had for lunch."

Mr Tompkins described how he would lay a trail of chairs across the living room for his daughter to reach the door as her condition worsened. "She was at the clinic for four and a half weeks from the end of February until after Easter and during that time there was no progress. We brought her home because we felt that maybe she just needed love and care."

"Her weight loss was frightening. She was normally about 7st 3lb and we struggled to get her over 5st 10lb by giving her nutritional drinks. Up until March she was still concerned about her appearance and was putting on make-up... we took her on a short break to Norfolk but by May 10 we realised she was getting worse." Clare was readmitted to the private clinic two days later.

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Mr Tompkins said Clare's



Clare Tompkins pictured with her fiancé, Andrew

condition deteriorated during motivational therapy at the private clinic and on May 28 she became unconscious and was taken to the Kent and Sussex Hospital in Tunbridge Wells.

It was there over the next two and a half months that doctors finally came to the conclusion that Miss Tompkins's condition was not psychological but neurological.

During that time Miss Tompkins was given intravenous anti-depressants and her father also consented to electroconvulsive treatment for his daughter under general anaesthetic. Ten days ago she was taken to St Mary's Hospital in Paddington which specialises in the investigation of CJD. There the disease was confirmed.

Mr Tompkins recalled that in February his daughter had

a brain scan which cannot reveal CJD. It was discussed in a speculative way. "I said you can forget that because she's been a vegetarian for 11 years."

Last Tuesday Miss Tompkins came home from the Kent and Sussex Hospital. Her father said: "She is very comfortable. We play her the tapes she loves of dolphin and whale music. She has nursing day and night and she is being fed through her stomach. Our conversation is eye contact. She will recognise things what you say but she can't talk. She has pictures of animals in her room as she's always had."

At the garden centre where Miss Tompkins had worked for the last eight years after leaving a local school with five GCSEs, staff were close to tears after they learned yesterday for the first time about her

illness. Terry Sheard, the garden centre owner, said: "I've known her since she was a baby and everyone here is absolutely shocked, it is so tragic." Mr Sheard has no idea how Miss Tompkins could have contracted CJD. As manager of the pet department she did handle dry dog food as well as other tinned products for animals.

Mr Tompkins also has no idea. His daughter insisted that all packet food was checked to see whether it contained animal fats. He remembers that she might have taken nutritional tablets to supplement her vegetarian diet.

It was at a family meeting last week that Mr and Mrs Tompkins, their daughter Lisa, 28, her husband and Andrew, who has visited his dying fiancée constantly, decided to talk publicly about Clare's illness.

A picture of Lisa's wedding, where Clare was bridesmaid, takes pride of place in the room where the family made their decision.

Mr Tompkins said: "She is only the 22nd person to contract this disease in the world. The odds against that alone must be millions."

"When you consider that not a piece of meat, nor any other animal fat, has passed her lips in 11 years... well I must admit that there is some anger inside me at the injustice of it."

"Our main concern now is that other parents whose children might be suffering from this terrible disease are aware of the possibility sooner than we were."

Bottomley father has last rural ride

By A STAFF REPORTER

VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY, the former Tory Heritage Secretary, joined an unusual funeral procession on the Isle of Wight for her late father yesterday — by retracing the family's traditional Easter ramble across fields to a local churchyard.

Her husband, Peter, also a Tory MP, helped to carry the coffin of John Garnett, who died last week aged 76. He described the funeral as a "semi-public event".

Members of the public out walking

their dogs looked on as the 30-strong funeral procession, including Peter Jay, the broadcaster, who is Mrs Bottomley's cousin, made its way along the country pathways to St Helen's Church near Seaview.

The half-mile route from the Garnett family home took in an uphill tree-lined footpath, a hedge-lined grass field occupied by young cows, and finally a vast field of straw before reaching the church. The route was the one walked by the extended family to the church each Easter.

The funeral service was conducted

by the Right Rev David Halsey, former Bishop of Carlisle, who lives on the Isle of Wight, and was an old friend of Mr Garnett. Canon Howard Barker, Vicar of St Helen's, said he thought it was nice touch that the family had chosen to bring the coffin down a rural footpath to "this type of thing used to happen quite often before the days of the motor car, but it isn't seen very often in modern times."

Mr Garnett was the director of the Industrial Society from 1962 to 1986. He was renowned as a gifted speaker and lecturer.

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Gift horse wins diplomacy stakes

Ben Macintyre
in St Martin
d'Oydes reports
on the sealing
between leaders
of a stable
relationship

THERE is a moment familiar to many holidaymakers in rural France when the Big Man of the locality invites himself for lunch, bringing goodwill, bags of fresh produce and a bottle of the local plonk.

This, on a grand scale, was the face of Tony Blair yesterday when Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister, visited him at the chateau in southwest France where the Blairs have spent the last week of their holiday.

In the best tradition, the Jospin visit was accompanied by the presentation of bouquets of flowers, jars of pâté de foie gras, expressions of political solidarity and, rather more unexpectedly, a small, stocky, and extremely frisky horse.

Cherie Blair, plainly wondering about the logistics of packing it when the family leaves next Tuesday, appeared to swallow hard when the five-month-old Mérens foal, named Justin de Vives, was handed over in the scorching village square at St Martin-d'Oydes as a going-home present.

"The children are very excited," she said, a little dubiously, but was visibly relieved when the village mayor announced that this "four-wheel-drive of the horse world, descended from the breed that crossed the Alps with Napoleon", would remain in the village to await the Blairs' next visit.

The experience of John Major underlines the wisdom of



The Blairs with the new four-legged friend that they will leave behind in France. The five-month-old foal is descended from the breed that crossed the Alps with Napoleon

Prime Ministers looking gift horses in the mouth. He was presented with a highly-strung stallion by the President of Turkmenistan for his 50th birthday in 1993, but gained only a series of diplomatic embarrassments from the present.

The President took offence as months went by without the £30,000 horse being collected from his stables. Then came the long and arduous trans-

portation from the central Asian state. Finally Maksat was turned down by the Queen's Life Guards as too frisky and is enjoying a leisureed life on a stud farm in Wales.

But Mr Blair was determined to be grateful for his animal. Looking tanned and relaxed beside the pallid, grey-haired M Jospin, he wheeled out his French again to thank the local folk for their welcome

and generosity. "I have been given many things over the years — clocks, pens, flowers — but up until now I have never been given a horse," he said. "It will give me and my children lots of pleasure." But only when in France, he might have added.

Before a crowd in which sweating television journalists outnumbered the locals, Mr Blair sang the praises of his holiday spot and his French

counterpart. "We are partners," he said. M Jospin added firmly: "We are both Socialists", determined to show that old French socialism is not so far removed from new Labour.

The event, designed to show that despite reports to the contrary the two Prime Ministers are on the most friendly terms, passed off without a hitch, though the heat and noise were clearly affecting the

local fauna. Justin and his mother whinnied and threatened to bolt, but it was the French press corps that finally stampeded, breaking out of its designated position and engulfing the two men and their wives as they attempted a brief walkabout.

After a vin d'honneur (in this case, champagne), the Prime Ministers repaired to the Blairs' holiday chateau for a lunch of poached salmon

cooked by the Spanish chef brought with them from Tuscany. The meeting was arranged at the request of M Jospin, whose constituency is just 20 miles away.

To judge from their enraptured expressions, the citizens of St Martin were relishing their 15 minutes of abnormality. From now on, there will be a corner of France and a stout Napoleonic pony, which is for ever Blairite.

The long summer break is revived

By NICHOLAS WATT
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR flies back to London this weekend at the end of his three-week continental break having chalked up yet another record. He has taken the longest foreign holiday of any prime minister in more than 40 years.

Not since an ailing Winston Churchill spent three weeks working on his wartime memoirs in Jamaica in 1953 has a prime minister spent such a long period away from British shores.

While John Prescott and Peter Mandelson have jostled for position, the Prime Minister has enjoyed time with his young family in the Tuscan hills and in the Arrière region of France.

Such a relaxing summer contrasts with Baroness Thatcher's distaste for holidays. She used to squeeze in a few days in Switzerland and once reportedly told a friend: "My heart and lungs don't stop during the recess, so why should my brain?"

Mr Blair's break has revived a tradition of lengthy continental breaks. The Liberal prime ministers, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman and Herbert Asquith, used to spend months in France. Asquith even had to travel to Biarritz to become Prime Minister because Edward VII was holidaying there.

In recent decades prime ministers have either taken a holiday at home or travelled abroad for short periods. Sir Edward Heath is Mr Blair's only rival. In 1971 Mr Wilson dubbed him a "part-time prime minister" when it was announced he was to skipper Morning Cloud for two weeks in the Admiral's Cup.

Camilla goes But Prince is tourist as Diana jets off the true king of vacations

Emma Wilkins contrasts the highs and lows of going on holiday

FOLLOWING in the footsteps of Diana, Princess of Wales, Camilla Parker Bowles made her way to Stansted airport yesterday for her holiday flight. The two women left within 13 hours of each other, but their methods of transport could not have been more different.

While the Princess left for the French Riviera on a £20 million private jet owned by Mohammed Al Fayed, Mrs Parker Bowles, coaxed at dawn to board an Airbus A320 charter flight to Málaga in Spain.

The Princess, who left at 7.30 on Thursday evening for a flight to Nice with Dodi Fayed, sank into the leather seats in a 19-seater Gulfstream jet. Mrs Parker Bowles, who left at 6.40 the following morning, had to shuffle on board the 180-seater plane with other holidaymakers.

On board Mr Al Fayed's jet, which is equipped with its own stereo sound system, passengers can choose whatever delicacies they desire — and all washed down with the finest champagne. A standard breakfast of omelette, beans and sausages was available for passengers on the Leisure International flight: drinks are extra.

Mrs Parker Bowles, who is staying with the Marquess of Douro at his 2,200-acre estate near Granada, paid £190 for her ticket. The cost of chartering a Gulfstream jet is £3,000 an hour, although if you are lucky enough to own

the plane, the running costs are a mere £1,000 an hour.

When the Princess arrived at Nice airport, she and Mr Fayed were driven to the harbour in a blue Mercedes accompanied by bodyguards. The couple, who are on their fourth trip abroad since early July, boarded a tender for the journey out to the *Jonikal* — Mr Al Fayed's £15 million motor yacht moored 500 yards out.

Mrs Parker Bowles will spend a week with the Marquess, son of the Duke of Wellington, and his wife Antonia. The Douros are among the select band of confidantes who have supported the Prince and Mrs Parker Bowles over many years.

It is understood that Mrs Parker Bowles chose the early flight to elude photographers.



On holiday: Mrs Parker Bowles and the Princess

AS Diana, Princess of Wales, enjoyed her fourth cruise in five weeks yesterday, some observers began to wonder if she had caught the holiday bug from her sister-in-law.

In fact, the Princess's total amount of holiday — just over four weeks so far this year — looks positively modest when compared to the amount of time off enjoyed by her former husband.

The Princess of Wales has taken at least nine weeks off so far this year. His present summer holiday at Balmoral will continue until his next official engagement, in the second week of September.

In January, the Prince enjoyed his traditional New Year skiing holiday in the Swiss resort of Klosters. He spent six days on the slopes with Prince Harry. Later the

same month, the Prince decided he needed another break and travelled to Scotland. After spending a few hours on official engagements in Edinburgh, he enjoyed the remainder of the week fishing, hunting and walking on the Balmoral estate. In March, he took Princes William and Harry to Kenya and Tanzania on a ten-day safari holiday.

The Princess, by contrast, has had a thin time this year. She spent a week at New Year in the Caribbean at the K Club on the island of Barbuda. Later the same month, the Princess visited Angola to highlight the issue of landmines.

The Princess did not take another holiday until Easter, when she took Princes William and Harry to the K Club for a week. The Princess spent ten days in July in St Tropez and cruising on a yacht owned by Mohammed Al Fayed.

Just ten days later she was cruising again — this time on the five-day holiday with Dodi Fayed, when the couple were photographed embracing on a yacht off Sardinia.

The Princess left for another cruise last week. She returned on Wednesday from her trip around the Greek islands with Rosa Monckton, an old friend. Then, on Thursday, the Princess flew to Nice to board the *Jonikal*. Al Fayed's yacht, for her current trip with Dodi Fayed.

Keep your cool, trippers told

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

THE Bank Holiday getaway began yesterday, with a week-end of thundery showers expected. Holidaymakers are unlikely to get much relief from the hot and humid weather, and storms were forecast, with flooding possible in the South.

Motorists were warned to protect the car from overheating. The AA was attending a breakdown caused by overheating every five minutes. Martin Royle, a national

WEATHER FORECAST, PAGE 28

forecaster, said that most holidaymakers would have hot sunshine but should pack their rainwear. "It's going to stay warm and will feel very, very humid in the South, with temperatures in the upper-20s. In the North it will be much fresher with showery rain but still with plenty of dry and sunny weather," he said. It was not yet possible to be precise about Monday's outlook. The AA advised motorists to

stagger their journeys. By evening yesterday, congestion had built up to all popular holiday destinations, including the Lake District, Scotland, the South West and Wales. The AA said that it would help motorists if, despite the steamy heat, they could keep a cool temper.

On the Dorset coast, where the heat has led to an increase in poisonous weever fish, bathers were warned to wear

plastic sandals to avoid being bitten. In Bristol, an ice rink melted when the cooling towers failed to cope with soaring temperatures.

Police reported traffic jams into Reading as 60,000 rock fans drove into town for the annual festival. Officers appealed to fans not to cool off in the river. "The river might look tempting in the heat, but even in August the Thames is a treacherous place. It has very strong undercurrents which have claimed the lives of bathers."



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Net closes on killer of Lady in the Lake

By Russell Jenkins

A BOAT on Coniston Water belonging to Gordon Park was seized by police yesterday after they confirmed that his first wife, who vanished 21 years ago, had been identified as the "Lady in the Lake".

Officers also smashed open a window at Mr Park's home and began an extensive search. He and his third wife, Olive, have been on a cycling holiday in France since the beginning of the month and may not know of the police investigation.

The body of his first wife, Carol, who disappeared when she was 30, was found by divers in a weighted bag in Coniston Water two weeks ago. Detective Superintendent Ian Douglas announced yesterday that the body, which was dressed in a distinctive baby-doll nightgown, had been formally identified using dental records.

Mr Douglas said he was confident that he would arrest the person who had spent the past 21 years believing that



Detective Superintendent Ian Douglas was confident that Carol Park's murderer would be arrested

they had got away with murder. He appealed to relatives and friends of the dead woman — described as a good family woman and a respected teaching colleague — to come forward.

A Cumbria police spokeswoman said yesterday that scenes of crime officers were searching the boat and Mr Park's house in Barrow-in-

Furness, having executed simultaneous search warrants. "Warrants were obtained from Barrow magistrates to search for and if necessary remove evidence in relation to the murder of Carol Park," the spokeswoman said.

Detectives were also expected to try to trace *Sail Fish*, the boat Mr Park owned at the time of his wife's disappear-

ance in July 1976. It was sold several years ago.

Mr Park's current yacht is a 10th vessel called *Mrs J. Desmond Slater*, 68, a fellow sailor on Coniston Water, recalled him yesterday: "He was a keen competitor. Like me, he liked to go out in a strong wind. We had one or two battles in the lake."

Mrs Park's family were yesterday trying to come to terms with the confirmation of her death. She and her husband had three children: Vanessa, now 29, Jeremy, 27, and Rachel, 26.

On the day she disappeared, the couple had planned a Blackpool daytrip with the children. Mrs Park complained of feeling sick and went to bed. When the family returned to their home in the village of Leece, near Barrow-in-Furness, she was gone. Neighbours praised the way Mr Park took on the task of raising the children.

Mr Douglas said he had spoken to Vanessa and had also contacted Jeremy about the identification of their



Police breaking into Gordon Park's home yesterday. He and his third wife are on a cycling holiday in France

mother's body. Asked how Jeremy had reacted, he said: "It is a traumatic time for all the family."

Mrs Park's brother, Ivor Price, 57, said on GMTV: "I have always kept an open mind about what happened to her. I thought she might have just walked out. She was fluent in languages and I thought she might have been

integrated into a foreign community. I thought she might have come back when my mother died. When she did not, I started to think not that she was dead but that she might never come back."

"Now I have to accept that she is dead, bringing to an end a 21-year-old nightmare. But God only knows the nightmare I must now face, having

to accept what happened to her."

Much of the police paperwork about Mrs Park's disappearance from her bungalow has been lost or disposed of in clearouts. Mr Douglas said: "This is a long, complicated inquiry and will be for a while."

But he added: "We are on the trail of whoever carried out

this murder. Twenty-one years on, I am sure that he or she thought they were safe. They are not. We are on their tail and I am quite confident we will eventually arrest someone for this."

Police expect Mr Parks, a retired teacher, to return from holiday in the next few days. Mr Douglas had no plans to send officers to France.

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Man tells how getaway car ran him down

By Simon De Bruxelles

A MAN who went to investigate a suspected burglary told yesterday how he was left permanently disabled after he was trapped beneath a getaway car.

Ralph Burns, 56, had to choose between clinging on beneath the car, or letting go and being run over and almost certainly killed. The driver ignored his screams for 120 yards before swerving to throw him off.

Then he disappeared along the country lane, leaving Mr Burns unconscious and bleeding heavily. Mr Burns spent ten days in a coma with injuries described by a consultant plastic surgeon as unique in his experience.

Mr Burns, a kitchen designer, has lost both kneecaps, the use of his left leg and arm and much of the flesh and muscle from the left-hand side of his body. Doctors have completed a series of skin grafts and grafted blood vessels into the damaged limbs.

Detectives said they were treating the attack as attempted murder. Mr Burns, speaking for the first time since the incident in July, told how he left his home, a converted mill in Cwmbran, South Wales, to investigate noises in an empty property next door. "I was



Burns left disabled after car dragged him along

stood at the entrance when this car just seemed to glide towards me at about 20mph. I went under and grabbed something with my hand. I was in terrible pain but I just kept thinking 'I ain't going under, I ain't going under'."

Mr Burns added: "I don't know whether I did the right thing by going outside — but what was I supposed to do, stay in my house and do nothing?"

Police followed a trail of blood along the road. Detective Sergeant Mike Boycott said: "Someone knows who is responsible. We appeal to their conscience."



Scientists have seen only skulls of the new species

New deer found in a lost world

By Nick Nuttall, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A NEW species of muntjac deer has been discovered in an area of Vietnam, which is proving to be the richest area in the world for discovering new animals and plants.

The find, one of only a handful of new large mammals discovered this century, follows the discovery of the giant muntjac deer and soala, an ox, in the same area over the past four years.

Researchers said they had also found a new type of carp and pheasant along with several new plant species, including a broadleaf tree and three bamboo species in the Truong Son area.

The discovery of the deer, which has yet to be given a scientific name, was made in April by an international team backed by the United Nations Environment Programme

and the World Wide Fund for Nature. Genetic tests have confirmed that the animal, which has a black coat and tiny, Viking helmet-like antlers, is about half the size of the common muntjac and weighs about 15kg, is a new species.

No living specimen has yet been seen by scientists but 18 skulls were collected from hunters who prize the deer known locally as *sam soi coocoo* or "the deer that lives in the deep, thick forest" for its meat.

The rugged Truong Son range, which separates Vietnam and Laos, contains some of Indochina's most diverse habitats. Scientists believe climatic events during the Pliocene age led to the area, which out of bounds to scientists between 1939 and 1985, becoming isolated, leading to an abundance of new species.

Britons face jail for hotel rape lies

A couple on holiday in Cyprus have admitted making up a sex attack so that they could make an insurance claim, reports Michael Theodorou

AN ENGLISH mother of two, 30, and a Greek Cypriot father, 26, who were staying in a hotel near Nicosia, Cyprus yesterday, admitted making up a sex attack so that they could make an insurance claim, reports Michael Theodorou.

The couple, who were staying in a hotel near Nicosia, Cyprus yesterday, admitted making up a sex attack so that they could make an insurance claim, reports Michael Theodorou.

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Susan Warburton and Paul Shearsmith, centre, are escorted into court yesterday. They could be jailed for a year over their failed conspiracy

need to have supporting evidence, such as a police report. It could also cover extended hotel bills.

"I'm sorry for what I did. I won't do it again," Shearsmith told the court before the couple were ordered to remain in police custody until Monday.

Warburton, her short blonde hair pulled back from her tanned face, left the court looking morose.

Each year the island's courts deal with British tourists arrested on charges ranging from possession of small amounts of soft drugs to filing fraudulent insurance claims, mostly for items such as video cameras and jewellery.

The judge who jailed Mangan explained it was a deterrent sentence, although her family are filing an appeal for clemency and early release on Monday. Her father, Albert Mangan, said: "I understand over there four months means four months. Annette is quiet and gets panicky. We are in a terrible state over this."

Cypriots beat up off-duty soldiers

FROM MICHAEL THEODOROU IN NICOSIA

THREE off-duty British soldiers serving in Cyprus were attacked by a large group of local youths yesterday in the tourist resort of Larnaca.

The three were whisked away to safety by nine Britons serving with the United Nations peacekeeping force, who were passing in a minibus. It was pelted with stones before it sped away with its windscreen shattered.

Army sources said the three young privates, serving with the 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment, were attacked by between 30 and 50 Greek Cypriot youths in the early hours outside a burger bar in Larnaca's tourist strip, two miles from the British military base of Dhekelia.

No arrests have been made, but local police are investigating the incident.

The 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment, has been banned from going into the more popular resort of Ayia Napa after five of its members were charged with assaulting three British tourists there earlier this month.

Yesterday's attack is not thought to have been linked to that incident.

Israeli admits killing British holidaymaker

BY ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM AND LIN JENKINS

AN ISRAELI man has admitted killing a Briton and wounding his girlfriend in the Negev desert, police said yesterday. Daniel Okef, 45, a major in the Israeli army reserves, who was arrested in a police raid gave no reason for the shooting, the Israeli Ministry of Public Security said. Okef, a truck-driver, who is married with two children, was remanded in a court in Beersheba for 15 days, while police prepared charges.

Max Hunter, 22, a law graduate, of Banstead, Surrey, and Charlotte Gibb, 20, a business student at Durham University, had accepted a lift from a driver north of Eilat, last week. After they stopped for a cigarette, Mr Hunter and the driver exchanged some words in Hebrew. The driver then opened fire.

Miss Gibb, who was shot in



Okef, confessed to shooting Britons

the head, arm and hand, was preparing for her first visit from Mr Hunter's parents since the attack, in Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, last night. Her parents said that they were glad that an arrest had been made.

David Adlam, a consultant at Addenbrooke's Hospital, said that Miss Gibb, of Market Deeping, Lincolnshire, had received expert care in Israel where surgeons were experienced in dealing with gunshot wounds. "It's a miracle, really. The bullet managed to miss every vital nerve in her face," he said. "Had the trajectory been altered by millimetres it would have killed her."

Israeli police had used an excellent description of the man and his car provided by Miss Gibb to track the suspect before making the arrest at 7.30am yesterday. After the attack, Okef had driven back over the Egyptian border to the hotel where he had been staying. He later returned to his home in the town of Even Yehuda, where he was arrested.

Police said that a gun registered to Okef matched the murder weapon and that a fingerprint found in his vehicle was that of Mr Hunter.

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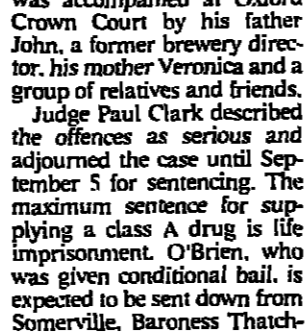
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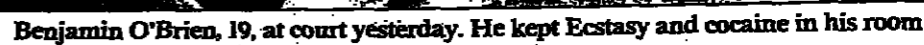
Although many students have a liberal attitude towards drug-taking, we all know that Ecstasy, in particular, can be lethal and that appears to



and younger brother at Wainfalls, near Halifax. Mrs. O'Brien said after the hearing: "Ben is certainly not the first student to pass drugs to his friends."

The Dean of Somerville, James Logue, who was at court, said afterwards: "A decision on long-term action against him will be made by the college governing body at its next meeting in October. They could call it earlier."

An Oxford University spokeswoman said yesterday that no new steps would be taken to combat drugs. "The O'Brien case is not connected with the two previous convictions. It is an isolated incident," she said. "There is no evidence that the problem is on the increase or that it is any more significant among our students compared with other young people. However, we are not in any way complacent."



were moved from adult jails to policy.

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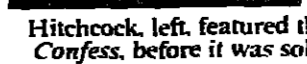
BY SIMON DE BRIDELLES

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IA

OSI

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES



the chair in his 1953 film *I*
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at bringing in indeterminate sentences, under which offenders would be released from prison only when it was considered that they no longer posed a risk to the community.

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Experts' merry old rain dance

Gardeners are getting conflicting advice on beating water shortages.

Nick Nuttall is told ice cubes are for gin and tonic, not hanging baskets

A CAMPAIGN by a water company, aimed at showing gardeners how to overcome shortages, has divided horticultural experts. Thames Water's advice includes putting ice cubes in hanging baskets and layers of newspapers over borders.

Anne Swithinbank, broadcaster and columnist, says the best place for ice cubes is in gin and tonic and is concerned about the effect of the print on plants.

The campaign, backed up by radio, press advertisements

Gardening.
Weekend, pages 4-6

and leaflets, includes tips from Bob Flowerdeew, of *Gardener's World*, on ways to keep the garden moist. He suggests sharpening hoes to rid the garden of water-hungry weeds, putting warm water and washing up liquid in dried-out hanging baskets and using an old freezer to collect rainwater.

Ms Swithinbank, a fellow *Gardener's World* panellist and *News of the World* expert, said yesterday that telling people to raise the height of the cut on the lawnmower to

keep the grass green and moist was sound advice. But putting down "several thicknesses of wet newspapers" on soils was not her cup of tea. "I do not know what is in the print. But I do not like putting any chemicals in the garden unless I know exactly what they are doing," she said.

Instead of clearing weeds and putting down a mulch, she advocated a more cottage-style approach, in which beds full of self-seeding plants could deliver the same results with less effort.

"If you have lots of leaf cover and shade, then the soil should remain moist," Ms Swithinbank said. Shingle and pebbles could have a similar effect, helping to keep moisture in the soil.

The Thames advice states: "If your hanging baskets dry out completely, they're hard to rewet, so rather than dunking them in the bath, try watering them with warm water with a drop of washing up liquid in it. Or put a few ice cubes on top which will melt and trickle in slowly."

Ms Swithinbank said: "I am not sure how much benefit you would get from this. I would think the best place for ice cubes is in a gin and tonic". Other experts said they



Bob Flowerdeew's advice to put layers of old newspapers over the borders failed to impress Anne Swithinbank

thought that it might be a shock for the plants to have ice cold cubes put on them.

Many water companies have been recommending that people should invest in water butts to collect rainwater. Mr Flowerdeew's advice includes getting hold of an old freezer,

painting it black and popping it into the garden to collect rainwater.

A spokeswoman for Greenpeace, the environmental group, said it would be worried about people using old freezers. They could contain CFCs, the chemical that de-

stroys the ozone layer. "If the freezer rusts, these CFCs could escape, unless they have been removed first," she said. "You should always contact a local authority which has a recycling facility before doing this."

Trevor Simms of the Royal Horticultural Society at

Wisley, Surrey, said yesterday: "We have lots of advice about keeping the garden moist, but it does not include newspapers. As for hanging baskets, we would advise not to let them get dry in the first place. We're not into fire-fighting."

Mary's glory puts earthly affairs in a heavenly light

David Hope

LIFE and liturgy belong together. If our worship is to be of any relevance, each must speak to the other, both of the realities of life and of eternal truth.

In the new calendar for use in the Church of England from Advent Sunday 1997, there is for the first time since the Reformation a "red letter" feast day for "The Blessed Virgin Mary", on August 15.

The matter was debated and contested to the last. So why all the fuss? August 15 is in the minds of most Western Christians associated with the dogmatic definition by Pope Pius XII in *Munificentissimus Deus* of the belief that the Blessed Virgin, having finished the course of this earthly life, "was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory".

Anglicans have always been wary of such definitions of dogma, not least when it has to do with Mary. Yet the plain fact is that there can be no other response to the rhetorical question: if Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ, is not in Heaven, where is she?

Perhaps the best and most straightforward statement is the Salvation Army's "Gone to glory".

And such a statement would in no way be incompatible with the thrust of the prayers for the departed in the Book of Common Prayer burial service, where we pray that the departed may "together with all those that have departed in the true faith of thy holy Name, may have our perfect consummation and bliss both in body and soul, in thy eternal and everlasting glory".

This feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary is so significant because before all else it is about the abundant and amazing grace of God as set before us in the vocation and response of Mary herself. He "looked upon the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary and

chose her to be the mother of His only Son".

And God goes on choosing the weak and the vulnerable, the despised and the lowly, the poor and the outcast as the means by which and in which his saving purposes are accomplished.

Thus this celebration of God and the wonderful things He has done in Mary is a celebration too of His amazing grace at work in us and in His world. We do not deserve it, but daily he lavishes upon us the riches of His creation.

"The world is charged with the grandeur of God" is Gerard Manley Hopkins's way of putting it. What are we doing to ensure that there is a world which so reflects God's glory rather than man's rapacity and greed? Ecology and the environment are not optional extras for the "green" Christian.

Most important of all, this feast spells out the preciousness of our own creation, that every human person is created in the image and likeness of God, and which is to be reflected in our own being and behaving — God's self-love and respect and care for each of us being reflected in the responsibility and the duty we have before God towards others.

The moral values to which we aspire spring from the fact that we are that strange conjunction of body and soul. Without the spiritual, the moral itself is in danger of becoming no more than a privatised idolatry.

The spiritual springs from that transcendent power which belongs to God alone, and which we see so gloriously at work in Mary, her vocation, her response and her destiny.

Dr David Hope is Archbishop of York.

At Your Service, Weekend, page 13

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Funnymen say BBC is stifling creative talent

BY CAROL MIDDLEY
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

TWO of the BBC's most respected comedy writers last night accused the corporation of starving creative talent and called for the television licence fee to be abolished.

Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran, the team behind *Birds of a Feather*, *Shine on Harvey Moon*

and *Goodnight Sweetheart*, told delegates at the Edinburgh Television Festival that the BBC did not deserve a state licence fee because it no longer took any creative risks.

Independent producers, they said, were patronised and short-changed by corporation executives, who demanded to own the rights to productions they commissioned. The BBC was also now

obsessed with copying ITV's programmes, moving "remorselessly towards the safe, the repetitive, and the cloned".

They said the American system, where teams of comedy writers also produce their shows and were "courted, sought after and highly rewarded", was far more effective for fostering new talent. American comedies such as *Friends* and *Frasier* are currently some of the

most popular on British television.

Giving the James MacTaggart Lecture jointly with Mr Gran, Mr Marks said: "If ITV has a vet, BBC wants a vet. If ITV has a moody cop, BBC wants a moody one." The BBC drama department had over the past few years "resembled a flock of headless chickens". Mr Gran added to the BBC: "The power the creative staff once had has been usurped by legions of

lawyers, accountants, business affairs executives and policy unit apparatchiks."

Broadcasters now preferred to spend on "chauffeur-driven cars, on front-of-camera talent, soap stars, celebrity chefs and Hale and Pace". The two men mocked the speech given at last year's lecture by John Birt, Director-General of the BBC, when he asked for an increase in the licence fee. "We are

of the generation that once took it as an article of faith that the BBC licence fee is a national monument and must be preserved. We now feel it has outlived its usefulness. Once it may have been liberating, today it is a ball and chain."

Mr Marks and Mr Gran instead proposed a voluntary subscription fee that would allow the BBC freedom and the ability to make more money. Viewers spent

£1.25 billion on cable and satellite, and £1.3 billion on videos, so they would be willing to pay £10 a month for a BBC smartcard because it was still highly popular. That would then release the Corporation from the "mercy of politicians".

The MacTaggart Lecture has in the past been delivered by Rupert Murdoch, John Birt, Michael Grade and Dennis Potter.



Worlds apart: Mr Lonsdale, above, in the hall and Mr Hughes, right, with his US team

The low-rent laughs of British comedy's church hall of fame

Dominic Kennedy on the little-known venue that has played host to 20 years of cheap but cheerful sitcoms

THE secret home of British television comedy for the past 20 years is a church hall in West London, where everything from *The Two Ronnies* to *Men Behaving Badly* has been rehearsed.

Terry Hughes, 55, who left

Britain to direct *The Golden Girls* and *Friends*, shown on Channel 4, recalls putting *Ronnie Barker* and *Ronnie Corbett* through their paces at the parish hall of St Mary Abbots in Kensington. "I just remember the smell of food

hanging around there from serving old-age pensioners," he told *The Times* from Los Angeles, where he was last night directing an episode of the comedy *Third Rock From The Sun*, now on BBC2.

Mr Hughes now has an entire studio set in the San Fernando Valley to rehearse his actors. He is backed by a team of ten writers who fine-tune scripts until a show is filmed before a live audience.

Writers can earn \$16 million (£10 million) on a four-year contract with a studio. Half an hour of *Seinfeld*, currently top of the ratings in America and shown here on BBC2 and Sky 1, costs \$4 million to make. The minimum union wage for a writer on an

American sitcom is \$2,200 a week. British sitcoms are made for as little as £170,000 per episode with writers usually earning between £5,000 and £10,000.

A typical American sitcom has 24 episodes, compared with only seven in the UK. A writer's life is hard: anyone who fails to come up with the required laughs is quickly sacked. The week begins in America on Monday with a read-through of the script by the actors. Anything which fails to raise a laugh is immediately changed. Rehearsals are monitored by executives who demand more changes, leaving the writers to work until 3am daily. Only 60 per cent of the

original script will remain by 7pm on Friday, when the audience arrives at the studio. If a joke fails to work during filming, the writers replace it on the spot. The scene is filmed again until the audience laughs. "It's a grind," said Mr Hughes, former head of variety for the BBC. "The writers deserve the money they get because it is relentless."

Studio City, where American sitcoms are rehearsed and filmed, is a far cry from St Mary Abbots, where the church wardens, Edward Lonsdale, has welcomed generations of English comedy actors. "There is a kitchen so they can look after themselves and get food and

drinks, as well as toilet facilities," he said.

Masking tape is stuck onto the church hall floor to mark the shape of the set. Cheap props, including an old television set with no screen and a headless teddy bear (used once for *Men Behaving Badly*), are carried in and out.

In America, locations such as the radio station in *Frasier*, shown on Channel 4, are permanent sets where actors spend all week practising their lines before filming. In Britain, the bachelor pad in *Men Behaving Badly* arrives in boxes at the television studio in Teddington, south-west London, the night before filming and is pulled down when the audience

leaves. St Mary Abbots church hall is luxury for the *Men Behaving Badly* cast, who had to rehearse earlier series in a scout hut. With £220 a day going to church mission funds from the hire of the church hall, Mr Lonsdale has become a connoisseur of television comedy.

"I make a point of watching all the comedies that are done here and virtually all of them I enjoy," he said. "*Men Behaving Badly* is wonderful, it's great fun. Sometimes I spot the odd one or two that are not going to be coming back. I won't tell you which one I think is going to close at the moment."

Simon Nye, who writes

Men Behaving Badly between his office in the West End and his home overlooking Hampstead Heath, sampled the US system when he sold the format of his show to America. In Studio City, a team of ten writers create 22 programmes a year based on his politically incorrect characters. "The American system is often to panic and needlessly make root-and-branch changes," he said.

Jackie Behan, a writer on *Men Behaving Badly* in America, said: "The Britishers can be a lot more dark and cynical. American audiences like to see more optimism. The British would be quite happy to end with the two men's lives falling apart."

MEN BEHAVING BADLY	FRASIER
First shown: 1992	First shown: 1993
Rehearsals: St Mary Abbots church hall, Kensington	Rehearsals: Paramount Studios, Hollywood
Cost: £200,000 per episode	Cost: \$3m per episode
Writers: 1	Writers: 9
Episodes: 6/7 per year	Episodes: 24 per year
Ratings: 6.18m viewers (UK) 9.1m homes (US)	Ratings: 3.2m viewers (UK) 6.1m homes (US)

Ratings are for August 1997

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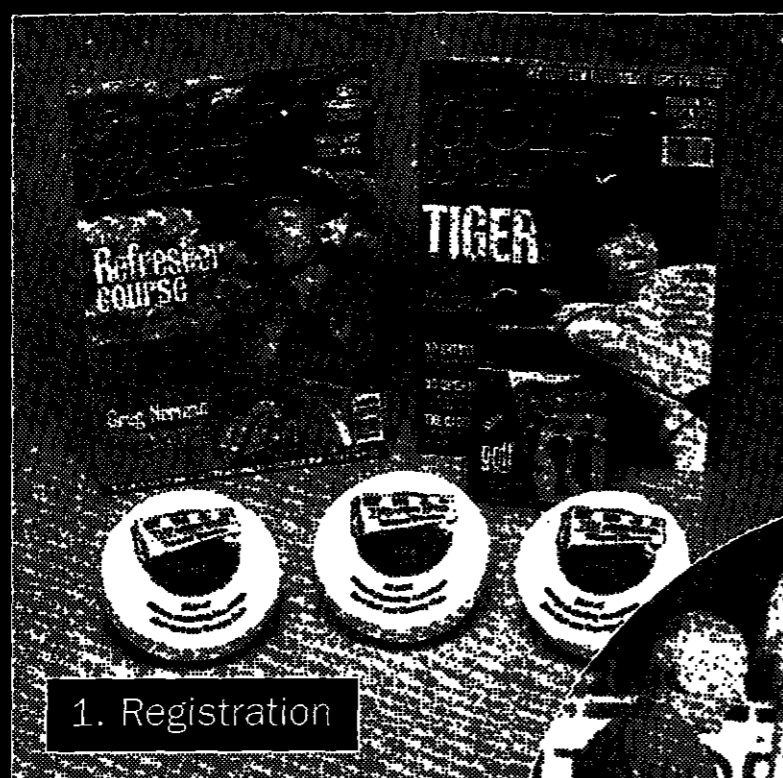
2. Access the event internet site on:

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GOLF WORLD

Gold tarnished in murky waters

John Goodbody
on how innuendo
took the shine
off a swimmer's
rapid passage
to the fast lane

Michelle Smith could be excused for feeling resentful. The Irish swimmer won three gold medals at the 1996 Olympics. This week she has already taken two golds and a silver in the first three days of the European Championships in Seville. Yet she is denied credit for being the world's outstanding female swimmer.

In few other walks of life would somebody who is dominating their chosen activity not receive universal acclaim. But this week many of the public, coaches and fellow swimmers left the pool area as Smith received her gold medals. She stood on the podium, grasping the Irish flag, with a sad smile on her face. The slight was obvious and she knew why. She had seen it all before in Atlanta last year.

Her improvement since 1992 has astonished her sport. Five years ago, in the 400 metres individual medley, she was ranked 115th in the world. In 1996, she was first. Her rise in the rankings came between the ages of 22 and 26—when a swimmer is believed to be incapable of such dramatic improvement.

The rumours started in 1995 but reached a wider audience last year when Janet Evans, the American winner of four Olympic titles, referred to "speculation out there on the deck" that Smith's improvement was partly due to drug-taking. The Irishwoman, often under fierce questioning, has repeatedly denied the charges and pointed to the frequency with which she has been called to doping control. The faster she has swum, the more often she has been tested—18 times, she says, in the past two years.

Smith was defiant in Atlanta and, competing under her married name of de Bruin, has been defiant in Seville. "I am very, very proud of what I have done," she says. "I do not accept that I am damned if I do



Three golds and a bronze: Smith astonished her fellow swimmers in Atlanta

win and damned if I do not. I have never felt like I wanted to quit. Swimming is my life."

But the smears have damaged her reputation and divided her country. The first Irishwoman to win an Olympic title in any sport could have expected to have been acclaimed at home. Instead, Jim McDaid, the Irish Sports Minister, announced this week that he would not be at Dublin airport to mark her return next week. After a storm of criticism, Mr McDaid found himself helped out of a tricky situation by none other than Smith herself. She said yesterday that she did not regard his decision as a snub and invited the minister to a party being thrown in her honour near Dublin Airport on Monday. According to Irish Radio, he has accepted.

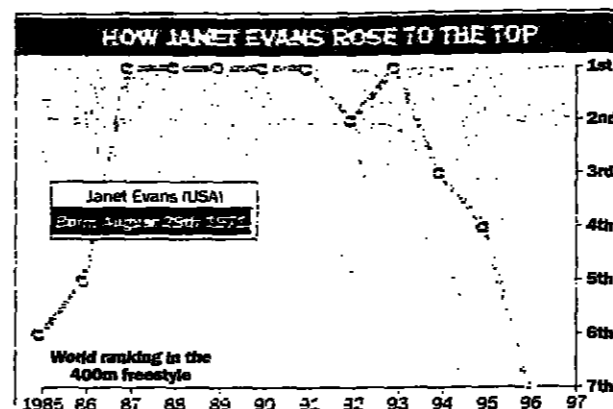
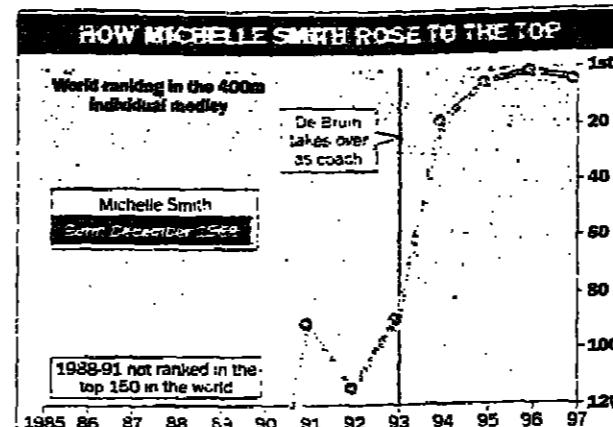
While Amy Van Dyken, the personable American, who took two gold medals at the 1996 Olympics, became a millionaire through sponsorship and endorsements, Smith has struggled financially. The mud thrown at her has stuck. Companies have been too worried by the smears to choose even such an intelligent and presentable figure as Smith as a figurehead for their

products—she has appeared in just one shampoo commercial.

Those who question her times give several reasons. Her husband and coach is Erik de Bruin, a former Dutch international athlete. He insists that her improvement since he took over her training in 1993 is because she began heavy weight-training and has had more rest periods. De Bruin, a shot-putter and discus-thrower, was banned from

athletics for four years in 1993. He was found positive for an unacceptably high level of testosterone. At the time he told a Dutch newspaper: "Who says doping is unethical? Sport is by definition dishonest. Some people are naturally gifted. Some people are not going to make it without extra help."

Insiders know that there are ways to beat the testers. As more and more sports, such as



Smith this week with coach and husband Erik de Bruin

13, 1996. She was in the United States but had not informed Fina, swimming's world governing body of her whereabouts. As a swimmer ranked in the world's top 50, she must do this. The Times also learnt that Smith was "unavailable" to Fina testers during "the first three quarters of 1995". By not complying strictly with the regulations of the governing body, she immediately brought suspicion on herself.

Even if a competitor is available for an out-of-competition test, detection can be difficult. One rumoured method is to use a catheter of untainted urine just before a drugs test. Females insert the untainted urine into the vagina, males into the penis.

There are also drugs which can help individuals to train harder but for which there are not yet any foolproof tests. One drug that Ben Johnson, the Canadian sprinter, admitted using in his preparation before finishing first at the 1988 Olympics was human growth hormone (HGH).

"It is certainly the most misused drug in sport," says Jacques Rogge, a leading member of the IOC medical commission.

The main problem in detect-

ing the artificial presence of HGH is that not only does the hormone exist naturally in the body but the stress of competition increases its levels.

Another substance, which is being promoted in magazines and on the Internet to stimulate muscle growth, is insulin, the diabetes drug. It is not a prohibited substance and there is no internationally accepted test for its detection.

There is no suggestion that Michelle Smith has used either these drugs or the methods of avoiding detection, but the fact they have been employed by other competitors has shown that the current system of drug detection is not foolproof. She has been tainted in part by the fact that people know that there are loopholes in testing. If there were not, she might be acclaimed as one of history's greats.

Additional reporting: Craig Lord.
□ Smith has pulled out of today's 300 metres individual medley in Seville because she is tired. She still plans to defend her 200 metres butterfly title on Sunday.

Seville, page 45

COMEBACK THAT LEFT THE WORLD STANDING

MICHELLE SMITH is not the first female Olympic champion to be tarnished by unsubstantiated innuendos about alleged drug-taking after a sudden improvement late in her career. At the age of 28, Florence Griffith-Joyner, the American athlete, enjoyed an extraordinary year in 1988. She set world track records for the 100 and 200 metres, which still stand, and collected four Olympic medals in Seoul, including three gold.

"Flojo" had finished second in the 200 metres at the 1984 Olympics but had drifted away from athletics in 1986. Nobody expected her to return so impressively to sprinting in

1987 and particularly in 1988, when she cut half a second off her best 100-metres time and even more than that over 200 metres.

Yet her improvement, credited to ferocious training, was disbelieved by such American contemporaries as Carl Lewis, who insinuated that she had used performance-enhancing substances. She has always denied taking drugs.

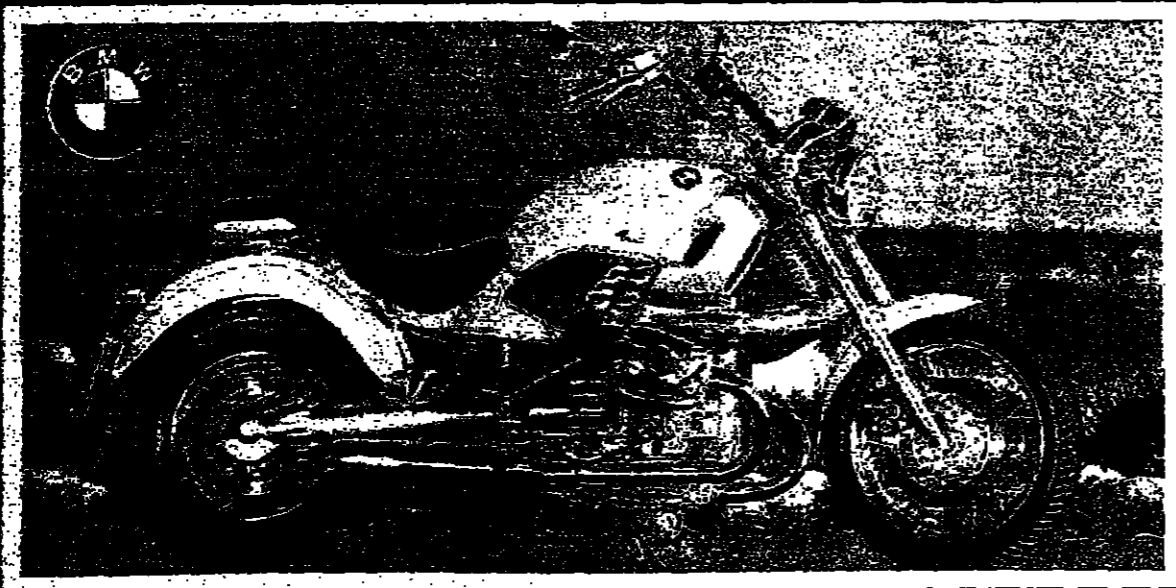
Unlike Smith, Griffith-Joyner retired after winning her Olympic titles. She was not as successful commercially as she should have been, and had to wait seven years to be inducted in the American Hall of Fame.



Seoul 1988: Flojo wins the 100m

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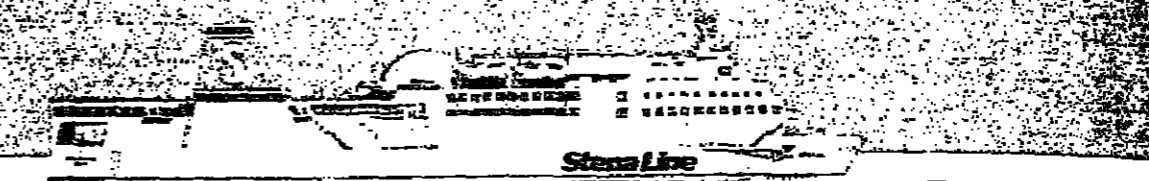
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JFK Jr gets it wrong

NEW YORK is a dense forest of words, where people often talk too much and frequently write more than is necessary. It is apt, therefore, that the city should be the home of George, America's most vacuous "political" magazine.

Published monthly, George is the vanity vehicle of President Kennedy's son, John F. Kennedy Jr. Started in October 1995, it is best known as the magazine no one reads but in which absolutely everyone advertises. Its publishers, who also bring out *Elle*, offer cut-price space in the feisty fashion magazine to those who place ads in the dud Mr Kennedy edit.

Field day for the Lennonists

EVEN though a particularly ghastly murder took place there in June (when a kindly middle-aged tippler was stabbed to death, allegedly by two drug-witened 14-year-olds), Strawberry Fields in Central Park is one of New York's most heavily trodden tourist sites.

A gentle teardrop-shaped garden, Strawberry Fields was created in 1985 in memory of the murdered John Lennon. Named after the Beatles' song, it was funded by a gift of \$1 million (£625,000) from Yoko Ono, Lennon's gnomish Japanese widow.

Two-and-a-half acres in size, it receives more than 2,000 visitors a day, a number exceeded only by the Statue of Liberty among New York's open-air tourist attractions.

More than a shrine to Lennon, however, the garden is now the best place in the city to observe oddballs in action.

A casual visitor can hope to find weeping "peaceniks", starchy-eyed Lennonists who kneel and kiss the turf, and small knots of distraught fans who wander dazedly whispering "O John, O John" to themselves. There are also some meditators and levitators, but no Lennon lookalikes.

In the week after Elvis Presley's 20th death anniversary, that is a serious mercy indeed.



George: an unread vanity vehicle

and denied. In barber-shops or at a manicurist's, "George" my barber, Mr Gomez, exclaimed, "For \$2.95 [£1.84] I'd rather buy a large hot dog." Mr Gomez is right. His hot dog would have much more meat and, surely, heaps more mustard.

Perhaps aware his pet was becoming an embarrassment, Mr Kennedy decided this month to give it a tweak. Unwisely, he put a naked picture of the model Kate Moss on the cover, shot in unflattering chiaroscuro. He also wrote an essay on the transgressions of some cousins. I will, this once, mangle my metaphors: he attempted to rap them on the knuckles but succeeded

TUNKU VARADARAJAN'S NEW YORK



only in shooting himself in the foot. The calamitous error reaped ridicule from respectable commentators across America, including even the leader writers of *The New York Times*, who have tended to treat the Kennedys with an almost gormless admiration. An aperçu from the "Dear Diary" genre, there are lines in the piece that should haunt their author forever.

Referring, among other things, to Cousin Joseph's divorce and Cousin Michael's alleged fornication with an underage babysitter,

he writes: "Two members of my family chased an idealised alter-native to their life. One left behind an embittered wife... fell in love with youth and surrendered his judgment... Both became poster boys for bad behaviour. Perhaps they deserved it. Perhaps they should have known better. To whom much is given, much is expected, right?"

Mr Kennedy's little essay is the intellectual "Chappaquiddick" of the Kennedy clan. And the river, this time, runs full with ink from a foolish writer's pen.

The appeal of virtual cricket

IF THERE is one thing that denies New York the status of the world's greatest city it is the absence of cricket. For all their heavenlyness, bagels, cheesecake, louché "gentlemen's clubs" and the Chrysler Building do not quite compensate for the city's heart-breaking cricketlessness.

Imagine my delight, therefore, when Lord's decided this week to begin broadcasting *Test Match Special* on its Internet website (<http://lords.msn.com>).

To hear the BBC's Henry Blofeld giving ball-by-ball commentary in the Big Apple is like sweet manna from cyberspace. An Englishman who has lived in New York for 20 years told me: "It's a dashed shame they didn't have this Internet business before. I'd have loved to hear John Arlott crackle at me across the Atlantic."

Test Match Special on the Internet should help expatriate Englishmen in New York to banish for ever those homesick blues. Good draught blitter is now widely available, as is Marmite and siltion. Cricket now completes the cultural jigsaw puzzle.

Since the older Brits here tend not to be "on line", they will no doubt start to frequent some of New York's many cybercafés, where, on payment of a few dollars, one can sip coffee and log on to the Internet.



Yoko with Lennon, whose memorial is now a top attraction

Cowboy apprentice has to bite surgical dust

DO you want a cut-price "nose job" or a bargain basement "tummy tuck"? Then make your way to the city's Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Centre. The place, it seems, is a medical Wild West, with cowboy surgeons offering "under the counter" plastic surgery for a smaller fee than would be levied if the vanity-op were done strictly by the book.

It was reported this week that the hospital authorities have suspended an uncertified resident surgeon (an apprentice, in other words) for performing cosmetic surgery on a fatish female abdomen. He did it in a side room, after hours and unsupervised.

The case, described as proba-

bly one of many, came to light after the patient developed post-operative complications. She lived, of course, but the resident was sacked. The hospital's spokesmen, naturally, have their lips sealed — or are they stitched together?

The hospital issued a terse and somewhat chilling statement, saying: "A resident in the division of plastic surgery performed a surgical procedure in an unauthorised location on a patient without appropriate supervision. The resident has been terminated."

He has been named as James Brady, in his fifth year of surgery training.

Trooper 'offered bribe in Britain' over Whitewater

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

A FORMER Arkansas state trooper was at the centre of potentially explosive allegations yesterday, claiming that he was accosted on a coach to Heathrow and offered a \$100,000 (£63,000) bribe and a job to ensure that he gave favourable evidence in the Whitewater case against President Clinton.

L.D. Brown, who worked on Mr Clinton's personal security squad when he was Governor of Arkansas, has told Kenneth Starr, the Whitewater prosecutor, that he is prepared to give evidence about the clandestine meeting, which he says took place in June on a road outside Leicester. In a letter sent to Mr Starr, with a copy to the White House, Miami-based John Thompson, Mr Brown's lawyer, asks the independent prosecutor whether evidence of the bribe would be of interest.

"I should like to inform you that he wishes to provide you with sworn testimony that he was approached by individuals with connections to the Clinton Administration offering him a large sum of money to influence his testimony about Bill Clinton's illegal activities," the letter says. "This would be witness tampering, would it not?"

Friends and other lawyers confirmed details of the meeting, in which the coach was flagged down by a taxi whose passenger had then boarded the coach and immediately sat next to Mr Brown.

After discussing the former trooper's connection with Mr Clinton at length, the man offered him the money and said that, if he contacted a member of the National Security Council in Washington, he would be offered a job in Moscow. Mr Brown is a fluent Russian speaker.

A second offer was made in a subsequent call to Mr Brown in Little Rock before he decided to reveal the attempts to change his evidence.

A former president of the Arkansas State Police Association, Mr Brown once considered himself a very close Clinton confidant. He has said that he was recruited by the CIA in 1984, with Mr Clinton's encouragement, and flew on two missions to Central America to deliver M16 rifles to the Nicaraguan Contras.

On one return trip he discovered



Kenneth Starr: he has been asked by the state trooper's lawyer whether evidence of a bribe would be of interest

the aircraft was carrying cocaine into Mena Airfield in Arkansas. He says that when he confronted the Governor, Mr Clinton told him not to worry.

Mr Brown has since emerged as a key figure in the Whitewater affair, corroborating claims by others that Mr Clinton had pressed an Arkansas businessman to make an illegal \$300,000 loan to Susan McDougal, one of the Clintons' partners in the failed land deal.

The trooper has also alleged that, between 1983 and 1985, he tried to solicit "over a hundred" sexual partners for the Arkansas Governor.

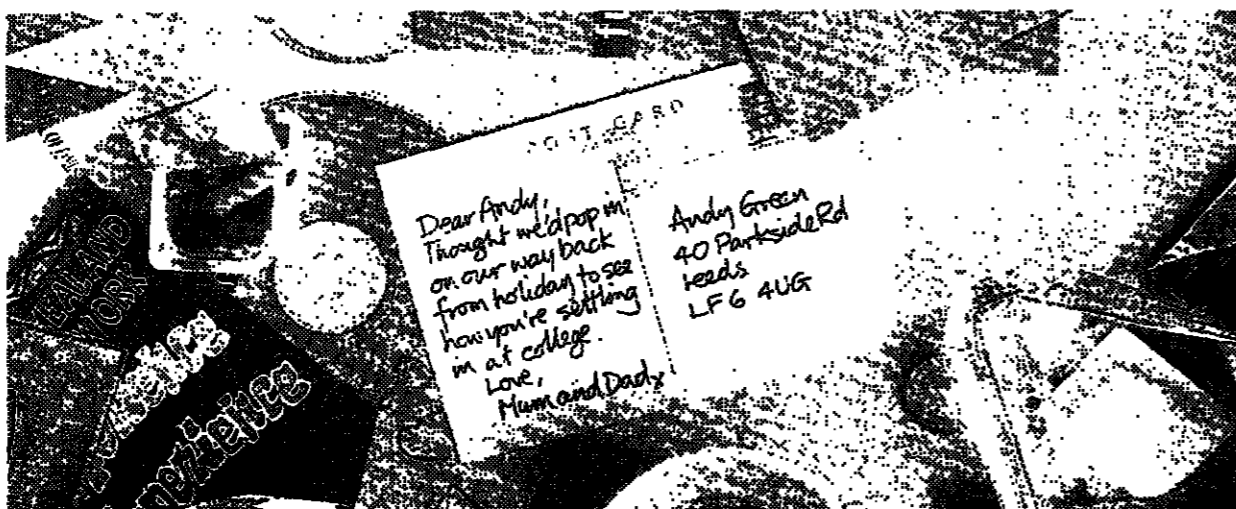
The timing of his latest claim will bring little joy to the President as he finishes the first week of a family holiday at Martha's Vineyard. It coincided with a meeting of lawyers in the highly embarrassing sexual harassment case brought against the President by Paula Jones, the former Arkansas state employee who is seeking \$700,000 in damages, alleging that Mr

Clinton asked her to perform a sexual act at a Little Rock hotel.

The White House offered no response yesterday to Mr Brown's allegation of witness tampering. In the past, Clinton aides erroneously said state records showed he was a "pathological liar", even though his employee file in Arkansas was packed with recommendations, many from Mr Clinton himself.

There have been previous suggestions of incentives being offered to prevent Mr Clinton's record as Governor from becoming public. In 1994, Betsey Wright, his chief of staff in Arkansas, returned to the Governor's mansion in Little Rock, apparently to discourage Danny Ferguson, another state trooper, from disclosing seamy details about life inside the house during Mr Clinton's tenure.

Shortly after the visit, Mr Ferguson's lawyers issued a statement denying that the President had offered any inducement for silence, but Mr Ferguson subsequently contradicted them.



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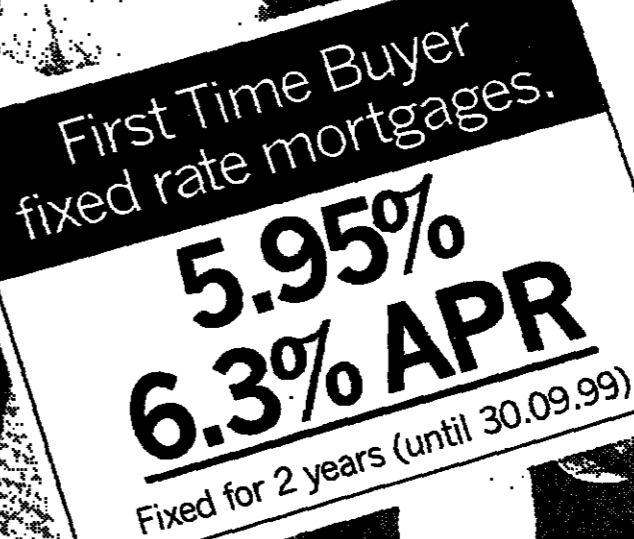
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The deserted centre yesterday of Plymouth, in the southern half of Montserrat, devastated by debris from the Soufrière Hills volcano

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Space walkers' repairs put Mir back to work

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN KOROLEV

TWO Russian cosmonauts completed a harrowing repair mission in space yesterday, which promised to give the crippled Mir space station a new lease of life and to rescue Russia's space programme.

After false starts and delays, Anatoli Solovyov and Pavel Vinogradov embarked on a four-hour operation to reconnect vital cables severed from a damaged module, thereby transforming Mir back to a fully functional scientific research station.

The Spektr module had to be evacuated in June after it was punctured during a collision with a Progress supply ship. Sealing off Spektr meant that its solar panels could no longer supply electricity to Mir, which has since been operating on half power.

In an operation that had never been tried in space before, Mr Vinogradov, the flight engineer, entered the cramped, dark, airless Spektr module to reconnect 11 cables and try to find the hole caused in the collision.

Although on paper the manoeuvre might appear routine,

the cosmonaut, 43, ran a real risk of a fatal accident if he had torn or damaged his spacesuit. Mr Vinogradov, a space novice who had an attack of nerves on his flight up to Mir, had spent hours simulating the operation on a Mir model in a water tank near Moscow. The rehearsals paid off: he completed the rewiring in two hours, even allowing himself to joke and banter with Mission Control and his fellow crew members.

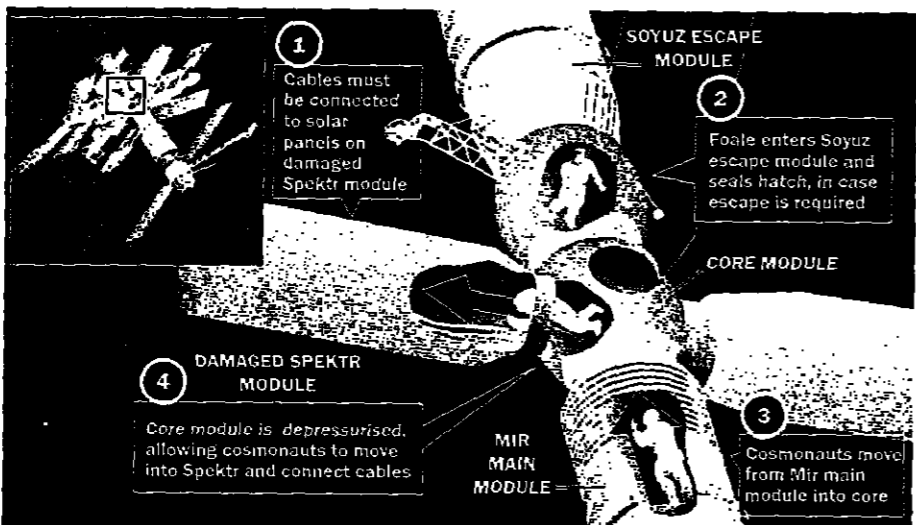
At one point he spotted what looked like floating crystals in the module. Then Michael Foale, the British-born NASA astronaut who sat out the repair mission in a Soyuz escape vehicle, told him that it was only his "shampoo" abandoned in haste when he evacuated Spektr two months ago.

At Mission Control in Korolev, outside Moscow, the relaxed atmosphere by day's end was in contrast to the mood a few hours earlier. First a leaking hatch threatened to abort the mission, then Mr Vinogradov reported his glove was leaking and would need to be replaced.

With the job done, Russian officials estimate that the space station should be back to about 90 per cent power capacity. That in turn should resolve many of the other power-related problems recently suffered in the orbit. The repair mission is not over yet, however. The cosmonauts may have to make a further five space walks in order to find and repair the damage to the Spektr module.

The successful completion of yesterday's repairs appeared to have been anticipated by President Yeltsin, who only hours before the operation addressed the nation about the importance of sustaining Russia's space programme. He said that only America and Russia were capable of maintaining a sophisticated aerospace industry and he promised that further government funding would be available next year.

He ended: "The time will come again when our boys will dream of flying a plane and girls will dream of a pilot or a cosmonaut."



The Pope in Notre Dame cathedral for the beatification of Frédéric Ozanam

Pope defies critics to visit anti-abortionist's grave

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN PARIS

THE POPE celebrated Mass in Notre Dame cathedral yesterday and beatified a 19th-century French thinker who inspired today's Christian Democrats.

The 77-year-old pontiff, who began a four-day visit to France on Thursday, also defied liberal critics of his stance on abortion by visiting the grave of a noted anti-abortion campaigner.

About 300 bishops from all over the world, together with an estimated 2,500 worshippers crowded into the cathedral for the beatification of Frédéric Ozanam — and the

first time the ceremony has been held in the French capital. Until 1984 beatifications — the last step before canonisation or sainthood in the Catholic rite — were carried out only in Rome.

Ozanam, a professor at the Sorbonne in Paris who died in 1853, was one of the founders of the St Vincent de Paul Society, a charity which now has nearly 900,000 members in 130 countries.

After the service, the Pope flew by helicopter to the village of Chalo-St-Mars to visit the grave of Jérôme Lejeune — a visit denounced by the

French Family Planning Movement as a "provocation against women and families" and criticised by France's ruling Socialist Party.

In a statement, the party of the Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin, said: "The significance of this move can only create bad feeling and risks encouraging in our country those who are waging a battle marked by intolerance."

Lejeune, described by the Pope as a close friend, founded the French anti-abortion group Laissez Les Vivre (Let Them Live). He died in 1994, aged 68.

Times quoted in Singapore damages call

FROM CHRIS LYDGATE IN SINGAPORE

THE politically charged defamation suit against Singapore's most prominent opposition politician, J. B. "Ben" Jeyaretnam, ended its first phase yesterday with counsel for Goh Chok Tong, the Prime Minister, asking for \$8200,000 (£84,000) in damages.

Summarising the Prime Minister's case, Thomas Shields QC said that he sought additional damages because of the way that Mr Jeyaretnam's defence had been conducted. George Carman QC, Mr Jeyaretnam's lawyer, has suggested the case was intended to bankrupt his client, so removing him from parliament. He had also pursued a withering cross-examination of the Prime Minister, probing fundamental issues about the functioning of democracy in Singapore.

Quoting both *The Times* — "QC speaks of climate of fear in Singapore" — and the *International Herald Tribune* — "Goh's motives questioned in Singapore case" — Mr Shields said that the defence had tried to turn the case into "a sort of show trial", attacking the Prime Minister's credibility.

Mr Jeyaretnam, 71, is facing eight libel suits filed by 11 top members of Singapore's ruling People's Action Party, including Mr Goh and Lee Kuan Yew, the Senior Minister, who was Mr Goh's predecessor.

The suits were triggered by a remark Mr Jeyaretnam made at the last Workers' Party rally before the January election, when he told the crowd he had just been handed two police reports filed against PAP leaders by Tang Liang Hong, a party colleague. In court, Mr Goh likened that announcement to a "Molotov cocktail" lobbed in his direction.

Singapore newspapers had given lavish coverage to the police reports, in which Mr Tang accused PAP leaders of deliberately lying about his

beliefs and painting him as an "anti-Christian Chinese chauvinist" — a damaging charge in an island nation constantly engaged in a delicate ethnic and religious balancing act.

Mr Carman said Mr Shields's line of reasoning was an "astounding argument" which implied that the media could not report on legitimate public events. He appealed to the High Court to "look behind the libel game" at the true motivation for the litigation, and to limit any damages to a single dollar.

The case has generated considerable interest both inter-

6 The defence has tried to turn the case into a sort of show trial

nationally and in Singapore. *The Straits Times*, the island's leading morning newspaper, has carried reports on several pages every day and, while the coverage has certainly been more favourable to the PAP leaders than reports from foreign journalists, most of the issues raised by Mr Carman have been faithfully covered, albeit usually in the back pages.

Mr Justice S. Rajendran said that he did not expect to issue a judgment in the case until next month.

The other ten plaintiffs, all top PAP members, have agreed to be bound by Mr Justice Rajendran's decision in the Prime Minister's case. Damages, if any, will be on a case-by-case basis.

The plaintiffs have already been awarded a total of \$5.6 million, in damages against Mr Tang for allegations by him, including those contained in the police reports mentioned by Mr Jeyaretnam at the rally.

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Snow's lovechild leaves France cold

PETER SNOW'S discovery of his long-lost son from a dalliance 33 years ago with a Frenchwoman provoked passion in the British press, but in Paris the story raised just a shrug.

For here such behaviour is not merely approved but expected of the famous. Increasingly, an illegitimate child with a mysterious father is one of the best accessories around. Despite the moral crusade surrounding the Pope's visit to Paris this weekend, the reality is that many of France's actresses, television presenters and politicians consider conceiving a child in wedlock rather dull, preferring DNA from a dashing donor who may, or may not, remain on the scene afterwards.

This month, President Chirac, endorsed more lax morals by being pictured on the front cover of *Paris Match* romping on the beach with his daughter, Claude, and illegitimate baby grandson, Martin Chirac. The child's father, a television producer, was well out of the picture.

Thus the story of Mr Snow's surprise "Hello Dad" phone call from the son he never knew he had was considered rather mundane here. Jacques Colin, an editor at the *Hello*-style magazine *Voici*, could not have been less impressed with the "Peter Snow: I Have Secret Son, Swingometer Star Confesses" headline from the *Mirror*. "This was a front-page story in Britain? Why? It certainly wouldn't have been a scandal here." The former *Newsnight* presenter had an affair on a Nile cruise in 1964



A broadcaster's love story titillated Britain but the French are used to celebrities' affairs, writes Kate Muir in Paris

with a French journalist named Sabine, producing a son, Matthieu, long before both his marriages. Sabine — her surname has not been revealed — kept her pregnancy secret and married a French lawyer, who brought up Matthieu as his own child.

All a common occurrence here, even among news presenters. Christine Ockrent has never married her son's father, Bernard Kouchner, the

6 Café society considers a man who has a child out of wedlock a superman

Health Minister, Claire Chazal, who presents the news on TF1, became a single mother two years ago, and while it was rumoured the father of her son was a male co-presenter on TF1, everyone was polite enough not to inquire. "Making a child is a proof of love. I want to protect my family and those I love," said Mme Chazal cryptically. "These are delicate matters," said M Colin, whose magazine treats a fine Gallic

line between public and private life. "What we publish depends on the attitude of the mother and the father. If the father does not want to be named, we usually accept that, unless, say, there is a paternity case brought by the mother."

M Colin said there was no question of the press judging such behaviour. "The French do not feel they have to say 'bravo' for every natural child, but nor are they shocked. Indeed, café conversation tends to consider a man who produces a child out of wedlock something of a superman."

There is a combination here of a peculiarly Catholic welcoming of the child when it is born, whatever the history beforehand, coupled with remaining respect for *la vie privée*, rendering certain personal questions vulgar. Incursions by the media into private life are often invited: take the pictures of Mitterrand's illegitimate daughter, again in *Paris Match*.

Biographers said the President, knowing he had terminal cancer, wanted to reveal his daughter to the world before his death. Of course, most French journalists and politicians knew of Mitterrand's illegitimate daughter, again in *Paris Match*.



Peter Snow meets his son, Matthieu, 33 years after a liaison with a French journalist while cruising on the Nile

almost 20 years. The term *bâtard* — bastard — is rarely heard now, reduced from an insult to a banality. The numbers of unmarried mothers are on the increase in France: 40 per cent now, compared to 12 per cent 15 years ago. In Britain, 35 per cent of mothers are unmarried.

The demographer Hervé Le Bras, of L'Ecole des Hautes Etudes, says: "It was not so long ago that pupils pointed fingers at the children of divorced parents, and sadistic teachers mocked them. Today

having divorced parents is completely ordinary, and the same attitude increasingly applies to illegitimacy."

The trail blazers on the single-mother scene here are French actresses, who produce illegitimate children almost as often as films. Isabelle Adjani, Emmanuelle Béart and Sophie Marceau each have two children, by a wide variety of fathers, and mostly live alone. Catherine Deneuve led the way years before with her illegitimate daughter Chiara Mastrolanni.

Although Mme Adjani has one older son, Barnabé, when she produced another with the disappearing (and later married) Daniel Day-Lewis, she was pictured on the cover of various magazines with *L'Homme de ma Vie* — her new baby, Gabriel-Kane.

The father's name was mentioned, but his role was not discussed.

The closest French interviewers get to pinning down the dad is asking actresses: *Vous êtes radiante. C'est*

l'amour? Of course it is love, answer the radiant actresses, but never reveal their sources.

There is even a (bad French) pop song about single mothers by Jean-Jacques Goldman which became almost a battle anthem in the 1980s: "Elle a fait un bébé toute seule" (She made a baby alone).

It is a social trend which has benefited Mr Snow, who could not be more delighted about gaining a sixth child, and two grandchildren. "It is a lovely story and I feel very happy," he said.

Japanese to tackle gas bomb legacy

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

JAPANESE officials are struggling to cope with a nightmarish wartime legacy — hundreds of thousands of poison gas shells left in China by its Imperial Army. Many of them are leaking, causing death and injury.

When Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister, visits Beijing next month he is expected to assure Chinese leaders that Japan is committed to disposing of the weapons within ten years. But experts say it lacks the know-how to handle the operation, and is unlikely to meet the deadline, even with experienced personnel hired in Britain, Germany and America.

The weapons — mustard gas, lewisite and pepper bombs — were brought to China in the 1930s when the Japanese Imperial Army occupied vast areas of the country's northeast. Japanese forces, in breach of international law, used chemical weapons more than 2,000 times during the Sino-Japanese war of 1937-1945. Last year a Japanese government team visiting Jilin province confirmed there were an estimated 700,000 chemical weapons there.

Negotiations floundered on Beijing's demand that Tokyo take the shells to neutralise them in Japan in accordance with the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention, which obliges signatories to remove all chemical weapons left in other countries.

Japanese officials rejected the idea, knowing communities in Japan would bitterly oppose the building of a disposal plant. Beijing relented in December, but the two nations have failed to agree on a Chinese location for the plant and its technology.

Professor Tsuneichi, a leading authority on the Imperial Army's chemical and germ warfare programmes, said: "The whole operation could take 100 years or more."

Leading article, page 19

Fashion-conscious tourists trek to Versace tomb

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME



Versace: ashes guarded

THE tomb of Gianni Versace, the fashion designer murdered in Miami five weeks ago, is becoming an increasingly popular if ghoulish destination on the Italian tourist itinerary.

After exploring the more traditional attractions of the great villas and gardens, hundreds of visitors to Lake Como, near the Swiss border,

are making for the small village cemetery where Versace's ashes are kept.

"We are getting to the point where we are under pressure to include Versace's tomb as a highlight of our advertised tour programmes," one Italian tour operator told *Corriere della Sera*. He said the small cemetery at Moltrasio was under siege every day from a growing number of tourists. "Most are German and Japanese, but we also get French,

English and, of course, Italian sightseers turning up," one of the cemetery guards said.

The tomb is protected by electronic alarms and security guards, both paid for by Versace's brother and sister. It has been under guard 24 hours a day after an attempt this month by a lone thief to steal the urn containing the late designer's ashes.

The robber used a chisel to cut through the heavy chain on the tomb door, but set off

an electronic alarm before he could seize the urn. He ran off. A man, 48, from Udine has confessed to the police, saying that he carried out the attack at the behest of Albanian criminals who had intended to demand a ransom from the Versace family for the return of the ashes.

The designer was murdered outside his mansion at Miami South Beach on July 15 by Andrew Cunanan, the alleged homosexual serial killer who

was himself found dead a few days later.

In Florida yesterday, the *Sun-Sentinel* of Fort Lauderdale reported that only one of two bullets that killed Versace entered at the back of his head, not both as first thought. That means that possibly he saw his killer as he was shot.

□ Jail for vandal: The ring-leader of a group of three unemployed men who vandalised a Bernini fountain in Rome was sentenced to three

months in prison yesterday and ordered to pay costs and damages, although it is not clear how he will pay.

Sebastiano Intili, 43, said he would appeal and his defence lawyers said they would counter-sue for "moral and material damages" because Intili hurt his foot while trying to dive from the back of a sea monster in the Fountain of the Four Rivers in Piazza Navona. His two co-defendants were acquitted.



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THE TIMES SATURDAY AUGUST 23 1997

Take that eyesore off our seafront

I t has been the most impassioned argument about art in Britain this year. It has resulted in a world-famous artist being sent packing by an English seaside town. And it has serious implications for those who like to foist "public art" — generally meaning inscrutable sculpture in unavoidable locations — on a public that hates the stuff.

Yet unless you live in west Cumbria you will probably not have heard a word about the affair. So let's enjoy the story of how little Whitehaven snubbed the renowned Eduardo Chillida ("the most celebrated living Spanish artist" — *Sunday Times*).

Three years ago Whitehaven's local authority, Copeland Borough Council, concocted a wonderful wheeze to bring £1 million of subsidy to this area of run-down industries. It focused on redeveloping the harbour to attract tourists, particularly cyclists setting off on the new "C2C" sculpture trail across northern England.

But to qualify for the desired subsidies, Whitehaven needed to

commission a big, "important" piece of public art. Well, somebody — probably one of those shadowy "consultants" that hover like flies whenever the honey-pot of public largesse is opened — came up with the name of Chillida.

The great sculptor was contacted. First he played hard to get, then he changed his mind several times about which site he and his pet architect wanted to "enhance". Finally he produced a small model of a work he called *Besarkada* ("Embraced") which he intended to build — a massive 18ft high and 15ft across — right on the shore.

At this point, the local council made two mistakes. The first was to put the model on display, invite comments, and even conduct a poll on the merits of Chillida's vast steel T-shape. A terrible blunder! As a damning *Policy Studies* Institute report on public art noted wryly a few years ago, the classic

tactic is to "inform rather than consult" the public. Thus is Antony Gormley's giant *Angel* being imposed on the underwhelmed citizens of Gateshead, and David Mach's eccentric *Train* on bemused shoppers in Darlington.

And the second error? That was to declare that the sculpture could serve as a "homage" to the 104 miners who lost their lives in the town's terrible William Pit disaster, which occurred 50 years ago this month.

Well, the people of Whitehaven looked at the model of Chillida's steel blob, weighed it against the magnitude of the tragedy it was supposedly commemorating, and found it wanting. To be specific, they found it ghastly, ludicrous, insulting — and, at a reported cost of £300,000, grossly overpriced. It looked like "a prototype of the first hip replacement," declared one correspondent to the *Whitehaven*



RICHARD MORRISON

News. Others likened it to a gallows, a "chunk of scrap", and a "50-ton seagull roost".

And the more that the council wittered on about the "special irony" of Chillida's sculpture rising "like a phoenix from the slag

rock", the more angry its residents became. "It's an eyesore imitating what *Blue Peter* does better with coathangers," fumed one.

Its creator's cause wasn't helped, unfortunately, by his nationality. "However upset we may feel about Spanish fishermen, can we all try to remember that this artist is not one of them," one kindly soul implored — but in vain. The general tone was implacably hostile. One lady, clearly Cumbria's answer to William McGonagall, spoke her mind in verse:

*Eduardo Chillida may have admirers,
And some of his works are a gem.
But surely, even he must admit,
This is not one of them.*

All summer the barrage has continued. True, one or two locals saw some sense in the council's argument that, since nobody in

Britain has ever commissioned a big sculpture from Chillida before (I wonder why not), the thing would "add to the stock of local attractions" — and also, of course, attract buckets of cash from the EU, Northern Arts, the lottery and various other gullible parties. And as one resident noted, once the sculpture was erected it could have practical uses: "We could throw a fisherman's net over it and grow things like runner beans."

But when the vote came, it was crushing: 87 per cent against. So last week little Copeland council told the great Chillida that his services were no longer required. Oddly, this is the second time that the Basque genius has recently been rebuffed. Last year his plan to hollow out a mountain in the Canaries as a "sculpture to tolerance" foundered when locals became, well, strangely intolerant.

Anyway, in Whitehaven the

council is putting on a brave face. "The response we have had to the sculpture is the best feedback we have ever had about anything," an excited spokesman said last week. Which only goes to show: modern art certainly gets people talking. And now they don't even have to fork out £300,000 to pay for it.

Nevertheless the Whitehaven Affair poses fundamental questions for the subsidised arts industry. Should the public be consulted, Whitehaven-style, before every big public-art decision? To deny every democratic participation in a process involving lots of public money and prominent public sites smacks of dictatorship. Yet if all cultural decisions are subjected to mob rule, art wouldn't progress at all. Tricky. Perhaps Chris Smith, the "people's Culture Secretary", has a view.

A competition will now decide who gets Whitehaven's commission. Avant-garde sculptors should probably not waste a stamped addressed envelope. The smart money in Whitehaven is on a nice statue of a mermaid.

ROBBIE JACK

COMEDY: Hettie Judah on the Perrier Award nominees

Familiar fizz falls flat

I t is unpleasantly symbolic that while the Edinburgh comedy festival is sponsored by rock'n'roll joy, cigarettes and alcohol, the comedy awards are given in the name of an inappropriately asetic fizzy water. For the pre-nomination fortnight, the festival is a chaotic celebration of comedy and comedians, but from the Perrier source spring bubbles of rivalry and resentment.

It may be great publicity and commercial gold dust for the nominees, but the nominations are made so early in the festival that the element of hit and miss, so important when discovering new acts, is removed. Comedians are also discouraged from bringing new work to the Fringe by the fear that panel members will view work still in development.

Possibly reflecting the lack of fresh talent on the Fringe, rules for nomination, hitherto restricted to the up-and-coming, now seem to be entirely improvised. The list for 1997 includes only one unknown, a



television presenter, a nominee from last year, the winner of the 1996 best newcomer award and a group of three.

So who is likely to scoop the Big One, when the winners are announced at midnight? Sketch ensemble *The League of Gentlemen* mine a particularly dark seam of humour. At their best and most disturbing, the scenario is played out in a vacuum of ambiguity, the audience thrown into the middle of a scene without knowing whether the action takes place in this world or the next, what the relationship is between the characters, and indeed whether they are male or female. At

their worst they resemble the unedited out-takes of a student improvisation workshop. The plethora of middle-aged homosexuals portrayed are all too much like *Withnail and I's* Uncle Monty and the jokes are overstated to the point where circumstantial punchlines are presented over and over again. But there are moments of sheer genius, in particular the scene in which an 18th-century *salonier* wagers his soul to Mephistopheles over nonsense card games.

"This is what we dreamt of as kids, isn't it? Staying up late and laughing at our own jokes," mused last year's best newcomer, Milton Jones. There is a charming childishness to Jones's humour, but it relies quite heavily on whether or not the audience wants to come out to play. He has a good battery of one-liners — "Apparently all Chinese children who play the piano know a tune called *Knife and Fork*" — and an unusual collection of anthropomorphic characters, including a 10p piece: "I may look like small change to you, but nobody has to hold me up to the light to see if I'm genuine."

Graham Norton, a familiar face and voice from television and radio, does out a brand of queenly humour that makes progressive women of a certain age giggle pinkly and say: "Ooh, isn't he naughty." Last year his act included phoning numbers from gay personal ads; this year he placed an ad himself, looking for "exhibitionists wanting a good time, possibly with others watching". Mercifully, no one called. Despite warning the audience that "at some time in the show there might be some 'language'", Norton never went



Perrier Award organiser Nica Burns (third from left) gets roped into an appropriately wild and wacky photocall with the nominees for 1997

beyond the "the main difference between a straight man and a bisexual is about four pints of lager" school of nudge-nudge innuendo. Entertaining, but hardly groundbreaking.

Al Murray, the Pub Landlord, is a veteran nominee with a faultlessly funny and intelligent show. This man walks on lager, and frankly deserves to win. Life being illogical and unfair, he probably won't. Murray's hottest competition comes in the rotund form of Johnny Vegas, Bernard Manning with a potter's wheel and this year's only true comic find.

Light shines on a dark epic

BBC PROMS

WEDNESDAY night's Sibelius Prom was keenly awaited, with the London premiere of the recently rediscovered *Wood Nymph* and a rare performance here of the great choral epic, *Kullervo*.

It was Osmo Vänskä who brought *The Wood Nymph* to attention with a highly praised recording last year. The tone poem is as impressive as it is attractive, as Vänskä showed once again in his performance with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. It features characteristically Sibelian build-ups: subtly changing figuration on strings, oscillating woodwind, noble brass.

The ending is stark, however, looking forward to the sombre world of the *Kalevala* epic also evoked in *Kullervo*. The national myth drew from Sibelius a mighty symphonic poem in five movements, an hour and a quarter long. The story, narrated largely by a male ensemble — here the well-drilled Helsinki University Male Chorus — is brutally simple. Kullervo entices a golden-haired maiden into his sledge, and they spend the night together before realising that they are long-lost brother and sister. Kullervo's sister feels obliged to drown herself, while Kullervo impales himself on his sword.

The mood of the music is almost unrelentingly dark, but the young Sibelius sustains it with unerring skill. Vänskä shaped the epic structure to an overpowering conclusion. Jukka Rasilainen and Kirsti Tiihonen were the baritone and soprano soloists.

A recently released recording of Brahms symphonies by Sir Charles Mackerras, using an authentic-sized orchestra (the Scottish Chamber Orchestra) and paying attention to historical performance practice, led one to expect a similar approach in Mackerras's Brahms Four on Thursday night. However, the London Philharmonic seemed little reduced, and I could detect few changes from the norm.

And yet there was one crucial difference. For Mackerras adopted an elasticity of beat known to be prevalent in the 19th century but generally abandoned today. Frequent rubato, hesitations both minute and palpable, and overall suppleness of rhythm created a marvellously expressive reading.

For Schubert's Symphony No 3 in D a gesture towards period instruments was made in the form of natural trumpets and hard sticks for the timpani. Whatever the reason for the compromise, the performance — both rhythmically alert and sweetly lyrical — was wholly convincing.

Appropriate as it was to hear three Schubert songs orchestrated by Brahms, it was Berlioz's brilliantly imaginative scoring of *Erkännt* that stole the show — especially the Thomas Allen animating the various roles in so electrifying a manner.

BARRY MILLINGTON

THE SUNDAY TIMES



THE HAUNTED SPY

Why did the double agent Kim Philby have the grief of these two children on his conscience? Phillip Knightley reveals that he abandoned their parents, the spy couriers Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, to the electric chair



THROUGH THICK AND THIN
"It is tempting to treat the British as a study in decline..."



STREET STYLE
What's wrong with my clothes? Janet Street-Porter models her favourite frocks



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Buried riches of the Treasury

Keep the heart of Whitehall public — and open, says Giles Worsley

With little fuss, the Government has taken advantage of the summer recess to abandon one of the more doctrinaire legacies of the Conservative administration: selling off the heart of the Civil Service, the Treasury building on the corner of Parliament Square and Whitehall.

If ever a building was meant to house government ministries, it is this, lying as it does at the centre of Whitehall, its four-square Classical respectability glowing across Parliament Square at the Gothic extravaganza of the Palace of Westminster, while its pompous entrance front guards the approach to Downing Street on Whitehall.

Designed in 1898 as the New Public Offices by J.M. Brydon and H. Tanner, the Treasury building is a reminder of that golden moment of Edwardian imperial confidence when even the British Government was prepared to abandon its habitual parsimony and build handsomely.

With its elaborate Baroque towers punctuating Westminster's skyline and its rich Classical elevations, the building is a familiar backdrop to Londoners and tourists alike, but for those privileged enough to get security passes the real delight is to penetrate to the core. Here its great circular court, modelled on the Whitehall Palace built by Inigo Jones for Charles I, is one of the finest unknown public spaces in London.

The Treasury has always suffered from politicians trying to use it to score political points. After all, the department it houses lies at the nerve centre of government, so what better way to set a public example? Thus in the 1960s, when politicians thought that Britain could be a modern nation only if it swept away its past through comprehensive redevelopment, the Treasury was to have been demolished. Along with much of the rest of historic Whitehall, it was to make way for a monolithic series of concrete ministries then seen to symbolise the latest in go-ahead government. Mercifully, the public outcry was too great and the scheme was abandoned.

Instead, the Government set about improving the existing buildings, triumphantly so in the case of the neighbouring Foreign and Commonwealth Office, whose 16-year restoration was completed earlier this year.

Here a pragmatic grasp of what was essential in a modern office (chiefly excellent telecommunications, rather than architectural modernity) was combined with sensitive conservation policies. The result was a greatly improved building which had more office space, but which also revealed the full glory of the rich interiors for the first time in half a century. And all for significantly less than the cost of a new building. What is more, in a break with traditional government secrecy, the interiors will be accessible to the public — in limited numbers — during Heritage Open Days next month.

The Government then decided that it was time to look at the

Treasury. Like most buildings coming up to their centenary, it needs a major overhaul. It has never been properly rewired, the basement is prone to flooding, there are problems with the concrete diaphragm structure, and, like many public offices, ad-hoc alterations have compromised the original design.

A temporary exile south of the river was planned while the building was brought up to modern standards. Sir Norman Foster, famed for his sensitive integration of old and the new in historic buildings, at the Royal Academy's Sackler Galleries and now in Berlin at the Reichstag, was employed as architect. English Heritage was brought in to advise on what parts of the building should be sacrosanct and which could be more radically altered. With an excess of dull, early 20th-century corridors to play with, it proved more amenable than might have been expected.

But ideological fervour clouded the picture. The Conservative Government's Private Finance Initiative (PFI), the cornerstone of its attempt to shift the balance of public infrastructure funding on to the private sector, was proving hard to get going. How better to prove that PFI could work than by turning the Treasury redevelopment into a PFI project? So the decision was taken to sell off the Treasury building to a public consortium. This would then re-

model the building and lease part of it back to the Treasury while turning the rest over to private use — a hotel was mentioned although luxury flats were the favoured solution when the scheme was dropped.

All this has now been abandoned. Yet again the Treasury seems to be a political football, this time because an economical Chancellor of the Exchequer does not want the Treasury to be seen engaging in expensive building works when he is trying to draw a tight rein on public expenses.

Today the Treasury has no idea what will happen to its building, but though modernisation can be postponed, it cannot be abandoned. At least any new proposals can start with a clean sheet, without the absurd compromise of giving over a substantial part of one of the key Whitehall ministries to luxury flats. The Government should begin by examining how the building could suit its broader needs. It was never designed to hold one monolithic ministry but to house a number of different departments, each with their own entrance, grand rooms and offices.

As modern ministries shrink to relatively small central elements, this original concept should be revived. If the Treasury does not need all the building, then other ministerial offices should take up the redundant space, not flats for multimillionaires. And if the reorganisation could again open up the central court to the public and provide occasional access to the grand rooms, we would all benefit.

The author is Editor of Perspectives on Architecture.



HM Treasury: denied restoration by an economical Chancellor

A vegetarian has contracted the 'new' CJD — but Simon Barnes won't change his principles

What, then, is the point of being a vegetarian? The sad tale of Clare Tomkins, the vegetarian who has contracted BSE, or 'mad cow' disease, has naturally attracted a good deal of attention: a strange and frightening story of a strange and frightening disease.

Ms Tomkins has been a vegetarian for 12 years. Has she been wasting her time? Is vegetarianism now a proven fallacy? Does the tale of poor Ms Tomkins mean that vegetarianism has exploded?

Perhaps it does, but to tell the truth, I don't give a damn one way or the other. I have been a vegetarian since 1976, and I will carry on being one. I will carry on even if scientists prove conclusively that vegetarianism is frightfully bad for you. And if they add that beef is the only truly healthy food known to mankind, I still won't eat it.

I suspect that Ms Tomkins would hold the same view. She has always been, like most vegetarians, an assiduous reader of labels, never one to let her guard slip and have some biscuit-maker slip a scrap of animal fat into her elevenses.

Mad extremism, said the new-veggie. But it is just an aspect of taking a logical, ethical position, that is all.

Do you do it for your health? I have been asked that question times without number. It is a

A meatless diet isn't healthy — just wise

question I find not so much irrelevant as mystifying. What has my health to do with the matter?

There are plenty of vegetarian convenience foods, and I eat them when it is convenient to do so. Perhaps they are better for you than long Coney Island hot dogs. Perhaps they are worse. It is a matter of indifference to me.

Are you just terribly squeamish, then? Again, a question that has nothing to do with the case. In fact, I am not like the sensitive Monty in the film *Withnail and I* — "as a boy, I used to weep in butcher's shops". In my carnivorous days I loved to eat the inner organs of beasts. My steaks were warm rather than cooked, cold blood pudding was a favourite lunch, and my treat of treats was sweetbread.

These days I prefer to stay the fatted aborigine. I could not find it in my heart to kill a cow, butcher it and eat it — rather like Alice on being introduced to the pudding —

therefore it is logical that I don't get somebody else to do it and then pretend it didn't happen. I have more respect — at least for the logic — of the shooting man who will kill, skin, clean and cook his own rabbit than for the squeamish hamburger eater who can't bear the thought of tripe and onions.

Is it just because you like animals? This is a question that tends to get asked rather eagerly, for to say "yes, I do" is at once to label oneself a sentimentalist, an anthropomorphiser, a person who has abandoned logic for the cuddliness of the bunny-unnies. If the person is male, he is a wimp, unworthy of his sex. His moral stance can, therefore, be rejected out of hand.

I do like animals, as it happens, but I travel to all kinds of wild places to be among them. Wimp that I am, I have walked unarmed into an angry lion, on another occasion a charging elephant. I

keep animals, too. A pair of non-vegetarian cats and two horses. I have no objection to administering the occasional whack to a horse that seems to need it, either. I love being with my beasts, but they have nothing to do with my vegetarianism.

Peter Singer, the ethical philosopher, wrote the groundbreaking *Animal Liberation* — a discredited phrase since it has been adopted as an extremist slogan. But Singer's notion of the expanding circles of concern — humankind moving progressively beyond family, beyond tribe, beyond nation, beyond race and now beyond species — anchors a vegetarian's stance to the solidity of rational argument.

And Singer himself insists that he is no pussy and dog-eat-dog man himself. He does not want pets cluttering the place up. We can dispose of the canard that vegetar-

ians care more about animals than people. Meanwhile, some of the soppiest, animal-draft people you could meet live off meat pies. The entire issue of sentimentality is just another red herring.

You do not have to be sentimental to find cruelty disturbing. The cruelties of modern animal husbandry do not bear thinking about — so people normally don't think about them. The thought of the de-bawking machine would rather take the edge off *coq au vin*.

Does an animal have rights? Well, I don't think a dog has a right to vote, nor a horse to send its foal to a decent school. But a domestic animal has, I think, a right to a decent life. A chicken has a right to a beak and the use of its legs — a right denied in battery farming.

People think that everything to do with vegetarianism is to do with sentiment — with the abnegation of reason. The very opposite is true. Let us go back to the Age of Reason itself and to Jeremy Bentham, the utilitarian philosopher.

People suggest, he said, that we have the right to do as we please with an animal — beat it, kill it, eat it — because it is less intelligent than a man. But a horse, he said, is far more conversant and intelligent than an idiot child, and we would not beat an idiot child. No, he said, the right question is not: can they think, but: can they suffer?

Nightmare on a bare mountain

Sheep subsidies are ruining Cader Idris, the loveliest peak in Wales

The cliffs of Cader Idris are sliding downhill. The summit is falling towards the sea. I have climbed Britain's most beautiful mountain most years since boyhood, and each time it has deteriorated. This year the change seems faster than ever.

Cader is rare among British mountains in having the form and aspect of an Alp. Two great volcanic scoops, or cwm, are filled north and south with deep lakes from which 1,000ft cliffs rise sheer and high. Like its sister Snowdon to the north, Cader has a topography similar to Everest. As children we even gave its features Everest names: the Icefall, the Western Cwm, the South Col. The dark sweep of Cambrian rock and slate that rises from Llyn-y-Cau on the Tal-y-llyn side, delighted artists of the picturesque. It produced Richard Wilson's masterpiece at the Tate. In the 19th century, the Dolgellau guide Richard Pugh built a stone hut (now derelict) on the summit and sold refreshments to climbers.

Perhaps because it is 70ft short of the magic 3,000, Cader is not overwhelmed with visitors. We added rocks each year to the summit cairn: to help it to grow higher. The charms of the great Snowdon ranges to the north are thankfully more popular than the isolated peaks of Mid Wales's Bala Fawr.

Walking Snowdon in high season, as I did often find myself held up in a queue, penned in by sheep and horses. You can still reach the top of Cader most days and encounter no more than a dozen well-behaved sheep.

Every Cader climber has his favourite route. Best known are the Rhydderch and the Fawr Path from the Tal-y-llyn side to the north. The Rhydderch is a steep, rocky climb, and the Fawr Path is a more gradual ascent. Both routes are popular with hikers and climbers.

There are now 11 million sheep in Wales, four times the human population and more than ever in history. When I first walked these hills, local farmers said they were carrying "ever fewer sheep" dis-

glory of this climb is that it gains height early and thus offers the longest walk at altitude. On a rare clear day, the whole of Cardigan Bay is laid out to the west.

Yet even here erosion threatens. Every section of the path is changing for the worse. In the wooded ravine, steps have had to be inserted to stop the hill becoming a mudslide. On the scramble up to the saddle, huge rocks have been deposited by helicopter on to what was an earth track. One scree has thus been created to prevent another, turning a walk into a foot-bruising scramble.

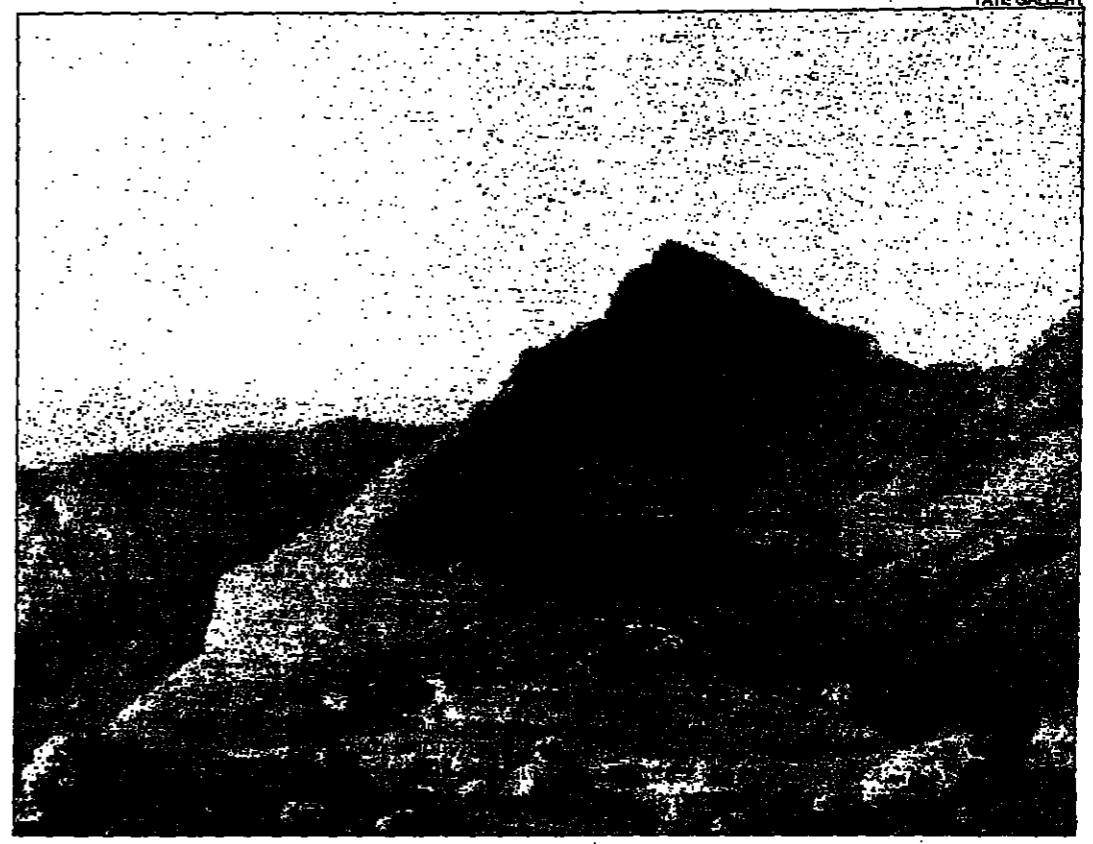
The slope to the summit is now a long scree, as thousands of feet dislodge tens of thousands of stones over the years. Wilson's view of Cader would now show its dark flanks streaked with tears, where walkers have worn away the topsoil and spread narrow paths into grey-white scars.

None of this is as drastic as the change in the ecology. I am no expert in detecting sedge and saxifrage decline or marking the fate of skylarks, lapwings, curlews, plovers and pipits. I only know what I used to see and can no longer.

Cader was once a mountain with a coat of heather, bilberry and moss, interspersed with thick tufts of grass — what botanists call dwarf-shrub heath. This rose above a true line of heath, bog, birch and scrub oak, with below it thicker bands of oak and pine. The climb to the summit was thus a progress through layers of flora. The mountain grew wilder under foot. We picked off bilberries and could trace the passage of autumn in the colours of the heather.

Cader is no longer heather-clad but on its way to being a lawn, a sweeping monoculture of acid grassland above a "tree-line" of poisonous *rhododendron*. The reason is sheep. There are not any sheep, not sheep needed for food and clothing, but a vast sheep and nine, 630-subsidy-a-head sheep. Sheep Annual Premium Scheme sheep.

There are now 11 million sheep in Wales, four times the human population and more than ever in history. When I first walked these hills, local farmers said they were carrying "ever fewer sheep" dis-



Llyn-y-Cau, Cader Idris by Richard Wilson (1714-82): sheep and walkers have ravaged this view

appearing in favour of the more efficient southern hemisphere. Welsh farming would depend on cattle and tourism. I cannot recall any sheep on the tops of Cader.

That was before Common Agricultural Policy protection and subsidy. Farmers are not just paid by the taxpayer to put sheep back on to the hills, they are paid per capita.

At high density — in places as high as a sheep per acre — sheep are ecologically rapacious. They will eat anything, and find young heather and tree shoots specially palatable.

They graze close to the ground, leaving it a bright green baize table. The Snowdon National Park has lost enough upland to conifer farming. It is now losing its surviving heathland to sheep. (A crazy scheme to compensate farmers for farming fewer sheep in "sensitive" areas costs an estimated £3,000 per sheep removed.)

Not to give all this money direct to farmers, leaving the landscape to regenerate, is ruled to be beneath their dignity. Farmers would appear to be earning money for nothing.

The contrast between the Welsh mountains today and 30 years ago is stark. An ecologist has fenced off a half-acre enclosure in the Llyn-y-

Cau cwm, leaving the vegetation for some years now to grow undisturbed by sheep. The enclosure bursts with a profusion of grasses, heathers, mosses and bilberries. It is a sumptuous, tragic memorial to the botany of Cader Idris, dead courtesy of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The dwarf-shrub heaths of Wales are becoming the upland equivalent of East Angles' arable prairies. This is not in deference to sophisticated market economics or to modern techniques of food production. The only money in sheep is subsidy, money direct from the taxpayer, suborned by politicians too weak to stand up to the hill-farm lobby.

Mountain ecology is being ruined as an act of policy. A small amount of public money is spent each year (through the National Park) to keep Cader Idris accessible and beautiful. A larger amount is being spent wrecking it.

Nor is that all. The view from the summit of Cader used to be of rolling uplands and of no man-made intrusion beyond a smudge of smoke above villages. Today every vista is afflicted by the dark stain of Forestry Enterprise (formerly Commission) conifer plantations, spread without respect for contour or water acidity across southern Snowdonia. East towards

Bala, "the Forestry" has taken to felling whole hillsides, leaving the landscape raped and despoiled. This quoquo is like the World Bank. It uses public money to punish the ecology and leaves its image to public relations.

The view south is marred by yet another government activity: power stations erected with Welsh Office permission (and tax subsidies) along the Cemaes Ridge prominence. More towers rise above Llandudno. These power stations are termed "wind farms" for public relations. It makes them no less hideous, and indeed more intrusive (because mobile) even than cooling towers. I am told that Friends of the Earth approve of them. They are no friends of this earth.

Cader Idris, the "chair of Idris", recalls a Welsh bardic king killed by Saxons in the 7th century. It is one of Wales's mystic seats of poetry. A legend that greatly appealed to the Romantics held that anyone spending a night on the mountain would come down either a poet or mad. Few dared take the risk.

At present you need not spend the night. You can climb Cader in daylight — and be sure to come down maddened.

Alarm call

BARONESS THATCHER, Joan Collins and other distinguished residents of Belgrave are to be asked to wear personal alarm systems around their necks at all times amid fears for their safety.

The alarms, worn on cotton neckties, are to be issued to senior residents living around Eaton and Belgrave Squares. The initiative, from Westminster police, follows the recent spate of "Relax nobles"

in the area this year, in which well-heeled locals, including Michael Green, the chairman of Carlton Communications, were mugged outside their homes. Elderly residents in the locality, where a few leave on a one-bedroom flat for as much as £1 million, have been told letters warning them that an intervention from the market research agency MORI will be called later in the month to discuss their



Diamonds: Joan Collins



Pearls: Margaret Thatcher

Voices off

THE Royal Opera House may be closed but that hasn't stopped local residents about who will be given a job on the board when it reopens. One of the present directors, a former member of the House of Commons, is expected to be replaced by a local resident.

Losing face

EVEN in Los Angeles, where insignificant bit-part TV actors are revered like minor deities, roadworks take account of no one. The Walk of Fame, the pavement on Hollywood Boulevard encrusted with the bronze star plaques of the silver screen's great and good, is to be ripped up so that a railway tunnel project can be completed. Transport officials plan to demolish 122 of the plaques, including those be-

longing to the actors Bob Hope, Mickey Rooney and Danny Kaye. Originally the city's Metropolitan Transport Authority promised carefully to remove each of the 3ft by 3ft plaques and store them for relaying later. Now they are to remove just the performer's name, medallion and star and reset them in a new plaque when the roadworks are completed.

Historians argue that the originals, touched and knelt on by the stars themselves, have a significance that is sacred. "They are destroying a part of history and they should preserve these as they have promised," rails Robert Nudelmann of Hollywood Heritage.

First bawl

WHILE his compatriots' fortunes seemed at the Oval yesterday, the Australian fast bowler Paul Reiffel was boasting about his most impressive delivery yet. Reiffel flew back to Australia last week to be at his wife's side for the birth of their first child, Bailey. The lanky pace man has since been on the phone regaling his team-mates with a ball-by-ball commentary of the labour.

"I was right in among the ac-

tion," he boasts. "It was amazing." The cruel gibe in the Australian dressing-room is that the nipper should be snapped up straight away by the England team, who could do with the help.

Claws are out

STRANGE reports are coming out of Cornwall of a spate of cat-nappings inspired by a children's book. Mowzer, a fictional black

and white cat made hugely popular in the bestselling tale *The Mousehole Cat*, is being blamed for the attempted thefts in the fishing village of Mousehole.

The book, by local author Antonia Barber, has sold a million copies and several adult purchasers have been intercepted in the act of making presents of village cats to their children, telling them that the ball of fluff is Mowzer. So far all nappers have been thwarted but relations between locals and visitors are hairy.

● The squeamish should stay away from Kelvin MacKenzie's lecture on the future of cable television at the Edinburgh Television Festival today. The tabby former Editor of The Sun, who now runs what The Mirror calls its cable television operation, intends to appear before delegates. David Mowzer-style, in a football kit. His chosen colours are those of Millwall, his station's sponsor. "Millwall was my team when I was a lat younger and I thought the TV people in Edinburgh might find this cuddly middle-aged chap rather more acceptable wearing this kit than a blue suit."





A BANKER'S EYE

The Governor counts the cost of a Scottish parliament

Bankers are not natural romantics, but then-misty eyes make it more difficult to read a balance sheet. It would be naive to expect Sir Bruce Patullo, the Governor of the Bank of Scotland, to welcome another tier of government with the power to take more money out of his customers' accounts just because the politicians raising the taxes swathe themselves in the Saltire. Sir Bruce's concerns should not, however, be dismissed as special pleading. His worries about the impact of a tax-raising Scottish parliament deserve serious attention. Scots should be aware of the price they may have to pay for their parliament. The Government argues that devolution will strengthen the Union, and it is only on that basis that *The Times* could support it. But if Scots discover the real cost of devolution only after the Edinburgh assembly is established then resentment could soon sour the new settlement.

The first area of concern for Sir Bruce might be termed the tip-of-the-iceberg question. Are the limited tax-raising powers advertised at the moment the only ones which will be used? In its White Paper, *Scotland's Parliament*, the Government proposes giving a future Edinburgh assembly the right to vary the basic rate of income tax by three pence in the pound. If exercised at the moment that would give the parliament some £450 million of additional money on top of the £14 billion of current Scottish expenditure for which it would assume responsibility.

The White Paper accepts that the decision of a future Chancellor of the Exchequer in Westminster might reduce the value of a 3p in the pound surcharge to the basic rate. The right of the Scottish parliament to raise "through the tax system" a sum equivalent to £450 million index-linked will, however, be preserved. That could mean an increase in the basic rate of more than 3p, or an increase in other taxes. Sir Bruce notes, ominously, that the referendum question on tax-varying powers does not specify that only income tax can be raised. An attempt by the House of Lords to insist that it did was rejected. With the principle established that

a Scottish parliament can raise any tax to secure an "index-linked" amount, what guarantee is there that a future Edinburgh administration will not interpret the index as it wishes and levy any additional taxes that it wants?

Even if the parliament does restrict itself to the powers currently advertised, that is not, in Sir Bruce's view, cause for celebration. His second concern is the consequence for Scottish employment of a different tax regime from the rest of the UK. Sir Bruce believes that the probable impact of higher taxes will be fewer jobs. He is, of course, only speculating about the future. But his speculation is soundly based. Lower taxes have helped the UK to secure a disproportionate share of inward investment in the EU. Is increased unemployment, to paraphrase Norman Lamont, a price well worth paying for a Scottish parliament?

Sir Bruce's third concern is the under-appreciated impact of the tax on those who will have jobs. The cost for an individual on the average Scots wage of £18,900 would be £6 a week. Tony Blair argued consistently before the election that the middle classes already pay too much in tax. How will they react to this impost? How, in particular, will young, talented Scots react when they calculate that the amount an average person might pay in "tartan tax", if invested over 40 years of working life, would yield £300,000? Might not Scotland's brightest and best be tempted to take the high road to England? And what effect would such a brain drain have on the Scottish economy?

Supporters of the tartan tax argue that the money raised could improve the quality of Scots' lives. Perhaps, but there is room for doubt. The political classes who ran Monklands, run Renfrew and are set to dominate a Scottish parliament have not yet proven themselves the most prudent stewards of public money. Ultimately, the argument for a Scottish parliament is one of democratic principle and should be won on that basis. But, in bringing a banker's eye to the tax balance sheet, Sir Bruce has done his countrymen a useful service.

POISONED LEGACY

How best to rid China of rotting Japanese chemical weapons

More than 50 years after the Second World War, the history of atrocities committed and endured still contains uncompleted chapters. Among the most horrific of these concern the Japanese invasion of China, where the full facts are only now emerging about the most chilling of all Japan's wartime breaches of international law, its resort to chemical and biological warfare.

Chinese estimates put the victims of Japanese mustard gas, lewisite and pepper attacks at nearly 100,000 killed or injured. In Zhejiang Province, Japanese bombs carrying fleas infected with bubonic plague were dropped on villages with devastating consequences. Perhaps 3,000 Chinese died at the infamous Unit 731 in Harbin, victims of medical experiments including infection with biological agents. Although China and Japan settled the question of war reparations in 1972, Chinese survivors and the victims' relatives this year began filing civil suits for compensation in Tokyo.

But the worst of this poisoned legacy belongs not to the past, but the present, for the retreating Imperial Army abandoned huge stockpiles of more than 700,000 of these weapons. They still lie there, now in an extremely hazardous corroded condition. Years of negotiation between China and Japan are only now coming to a head, with China insisting that final agreement on their destruction must be reached by the time Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister, visits Beijing next month.

Several factors have contributed to this extraordinary delay — China's isolation for more than three decades after the 1949 revolution, the destruction of key Japanese war archives and, until recent years, Japan's reluctance to confront its war record, including its involvement in chemical and biological warfare. It was only after seven

Japanese inspection missions to China that Tokyo finally confirmed that the weapons were Japanese wartime stock and accepted responsibility for destroying them.

Under the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention which finally entered into force in April this year, signatories are obliged to remove chemical weapons left in other countries. But last December, China reluctantly accepted Tokyo's argument that it would be too hazardous to ship the leaking armoury to Japan and agreed to Japan's offer to build environmentally safe disposal factories in China itself. This political accord is only the first and least difficult step. The two sides have yet to agree where the plants are to be sited and what technology to use. Above all, precisely because postwar Japan has had no involvement in such weaponry, it lacks the required expertise.

The Japanese Government insists that it is ready to foot the considerable bill and has every intention of meeting the ten-year deadline. Given the environmental and health risks these stockpiles pose, it has every incentive to do so. Its preferred option appears to be to contract Japanese companies to do the job and hire experts from countries such as Britain and America. This could prove a cumbersome approach, risking further delays. That would be politically and environmentally unacceptable.

The huge scale of this hazardous mission suggests that a better approach would be for Britain, America and Japan to mount a joint task force. Sceptics, particularly in the US Congress, were reluctant to sign the Chemical Weapons Convention on grounds of impracticability. This could be a first test of international co-operation under the convention that would both help to prove the sceptics wrong, and heal a wound that scars the whole world and has festered far too long.

CIVIL WAR GAME

Blair can bring his side to victory

In the months since the election there has been a quiet civil war between two sections of the Labour Party. This is not Old Labour versus New or Left versus Right or even Angles versus Celts. The battle is between Roundheads and Cavaliers. Each side commands support from a Downing Street base.

Labour Party history and traditions offer little guidance to either the Blair Cavaliers or the Brown Roundheads. For every austere Cripps there has been a buccaneering Bevan; for every prolier-than-thou Tony Benn, a claret-quaffing Roy Jenkins. Nor is this even a class divide: it was John Prescott who made the gloriously Cavalier remark that ensured the survival of the Millennium Dome project: "If we can't manage this, we're not much of a Government."

Cavaliers take more risks: Roundheads are more cautious. With the leader of the Roundheads guarding the purse-strings, this Government is unlikely to be charged with Cavalier extravagance. But style matters to a Cavalier as much as substance, and style can be relatively cheap.

So, for instance, Tony Blair has taken the longest foreign holiday of any Prime Minister since Winston Churchill (Cavalier incar-

nate) in 1953. Unlike Margaret Thatcher, who could hardly bear a week away from work, he does not possess superhuman energy. Mr Blair looked at the end of July as though he truly needed a decent break.

Inviting pop stars and actors to No 10 is another cheap but provocatively Cavalier move. Roundheads have frugal ways to assert themselves too. Complaining about press coverage costs nothing. Nor does banning other people's pleasures, and already ministers are rushing to outlaw guns and cigarette ads, while backbenchers are intent on banning hunting.

The most conspicuous sign of a Roundhead ascendancy in the Government is its approach to work. Most ministers act as if voters gave them five months, not five years. They arrive in their offices before the cleaners and force officials to work until the night shift takes over. For a Government that is supposed to support family-friendly working, this is a bad example and probably self-defeating too. If Mr Blair wants to forestall a Roundhead capture of the commanding heights of Government, he must give his colleagues appropriately Cavalier guidance when he gets back.

Jobs, not benefits, to reduce poverty

From Dr M. Riad el-Ghonyem

Sir, Roy Hattersley ("Must the poor pay the price of victory?", August 16) argues for income redistribution through moderately taxing the rich. Peter Mandelson, on the other hand, calls for an assault on "social exclusion" by keeping social benefits in line with inflation (report and leading article, August 15). Both views contribute usefully to the debate.

It is essential, however, to address some elementary questions. Who are the most needy? How many are annually pushed below the poverty line (the new poor)? What are the root causes of their poverty and sources of inequality? How can the extent of inequality of opportunities for generating primary-income earnings be significantly reduced without excessive reliance on economic growth?

The merit of relying on primary income (derived from human and physical assets) rather than secondary income (derived from social benefits) is confirmed by several studies. These indicate that reliance on the former is likely to reduce poverty incidence between three and five times faster than reliance on the latter; its beneficiaries tend to be less vulnerable to economic shocks and fiscal changes.

Yours sincerely,
M. R. EL-GHONYEM
(Senior research associate),
International Development Centre,
University of Oxford,
21 St Giles, Oxford,
August 18.

Switching big top

From the Head of Leighton Park School, Reading

Sir, So it seems (report, "Germans lose home connection to America", later editions, August 22) that we are to mark the millennium with a Teflon dome that "could last for 25 years". We were originally given to understand that this project was intended as an enduring legacy.

Having just returned from France, where innumerable 12th-century churches continue to inspire one with their astonishing carvings, I can only wonder at the vision and technique of those builders, eight centuries ago. Have we lost something in the meantime?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DUNSTON,
Head,
Leighton Park School,
Stamfield Road, Reading, Berkshire,
August 22.

From Professor Jonathan G. M. Wood

Sir, It is an architectural conceit to describe the Greenwich structure as a dome. Well engineered domes can last a millennium or two. It might help the politicians now dabbling in its design if it was described correctly, as a bubble.

Yours sincerely,
JONATHAN G. M. WOOD
(Director),
Structural Studies & Design Ltd,
Northbridge House,
Chiddingfold, Surrey,
August 22.

Sex offenders

From the Minister of State, Home Office

Sir, The notion aired by the assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers that the national sex offenders' register is "a shambles" and "flawed" (report, August 15) is totally misplaced. Quite simply, there is no confusion and no flaw. The Probation Service is in no way banned from providing the addresses of sex offenders to the police.

May I therefore set out the process, so that all doubt is removed: Offenders under supervision will be given a form by the Probation Service, telling them what they are required to do.

This information will be copied to the police. The legal requirement to register details of names and addresses rests with the sex offender and they should be left in no doubt of their obligations. If the offender fails to register within 14 days the police will take action. Penalties for non-compliance are up to six months in prison and/or a £5,000 fine.

This is an important measure to protect the public, particularly children and vulnerable adults. It has been welcomed widely by the NSPCC, by the police and by chief probation officers. Sex offenders should not be allowed to imagine that they can get away with subverting the intention of the Sex Offenders Act.

Yours sincerely,
ALUN MICHAEL,
Home Office,
50 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1,
August 15.

Weekend Money letters, page 41

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

C. S. Lewis behind wardrobe doors

From Mr Richard Lines

Sir, It is well known that C. S. Lewis drew his images from a wide variety of sources — biblical, mythological and literary (letters, July 31, August 4 and 13). It is strange, therefore, that he has left us no clue as to the origin of one of the most powerful of them, the wardrobe that admits the children into the magical land of Narnia.

The recent correspondence has suggested three possible sources: E. T. A. Hoffmann, George MacDonald and Edith Nesbit. While Lewis was undoubtedly fond of Edith Nesbit's children's stories (and actually refers to characters from *The Story of the Treasure Seekers* in *The Magician's Nephew*, her "wardrobe" in *The Lion and the Unicorn* and *The Magic World* is not such a close "fit" as Hoffmann's wardrobe in *The Nutcracker* and the Mouse King. In the latter there are fur coats and a wooded landscape under snow, exactly as in Lewis's story.

Lewis readily admitted the influence of George MacDonald and described him in his anthology of the writer's work as his "master"; but MacDonald never used the wardrobe image. He did, however, draw inspiration from the German Romantics, particularly Novalis and Hoffmann, and it seems most likely that it was MacDonald's writings which led Lewis to Hoffmann and his magic wardrobe.

What is not clear is why Lewis did not disclose his source here. In an essay on MacDonald he admitted that he was a don and that "source-hunting" (*Quellenforschung*) was in his marrow. Perhaps Lewis was reluctant to mention a German source of inspiration so soon after the Second World War — *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* being published in 1950?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD LINES
(Committee member,
The George MacDonald Society),
38 South Vale, Upper Norwood, SE19,
August 14.

From the Librarian of the George MacDonald Society

Sir, I have watched with interest the correspondence on C. S. Lewis in your columns, as a precursor of what we are likely to have to endure during the centenary year of his birth, 1908.

Owen Barfield, Lewis's lifelong friend, has observed that most of Lewis's fiction is pastiche, and pastiche is prone to pass over into plagiarism. For instance the source from Hoffmann's *Nutcracker* of the wardrobe entrance to Narnia through fur coats

has been known for at least the past ten years.

It took me some time to comprehend Mr Paul Barnett's allusion (letter, August 13) to a "cupboard" in MacDonald's *Lilith*. The protagonist in that book sometimes returns from another world via a book "closet" in his library. When he leaves our world, however, it is by a mirror/door in his attic (brain) — except once where, in a splendid passage of scatological writing, he utilises Edmund Spenser's "back gate".

Lewis never wrote an introduction for *Lilith* as Mr Barnett suggests, although disconnected passages from the preface to Lewis's anthology of George MacDonald's works have been re-used as introductions for several editions of *Lilith* and *Phantastes*. This is unfortunate, because these passages are deliberately rhetorical and, out of context, convey a wholly misleading idea of Lewis's opinion of MacDonald's literary skills. His real view of MacDonald's writing is conveyed in many of the letters published in *Letters to Arthur Greeves*.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DOCHERTY,
Librarian,
The George MacDonald Society,
The Library,
King's College, Strand, WC2,
August 13.

From Mr J. Alex C. Maines

Sir, I have enjoyed the correspondence on "The Lion, the Witch and the Womb" but I feel that I must strike a serious note.

Mr Andrew Cuneo and Mr Christopher Whiteside (letters, August 13) talked of others' interpretations of Lewis's work and of the author's views on such interpretations. Fair enough, but while the comedy value of the wardrobe as the womb is clear, it is sad that anyone would seek to limit the interpretations of the reader.

It is a creative process for the reader to fashion his or her own (consistent) understanding of a text. It is not a science with right and wrong answers: people have the right to their own interpretation of texts.

It is up to readers to study the interpretation to see if it holds water, not for the original author to say that we have it wrong, or his disciples to say they do not endorse it.

Yours sincerely,
ALEX MAINES,
Harlequins,
Harlequin Lane,
Cromwell, East Sussex,
August 13.

encies, the parties at Westminster would become dangerously centralised.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLOTTE HORSFIELD,
24 Liverpool Road,
Kingston Hill, Surrey.

From Sir John Walley

Sir, How right Lord Bethell is to challenge the right of a prime minister to choose our Members of Parliament.

Our first and perhaps greatest Labour Prime Minister, J. Ramsay MacDonald, had no such ideas. He introduced, and got through the Commons, a Bill to make the single transferable vote, the only method of electing Members to Parliament. Thus, no one could get there without demonstrating that he or she had majority support in the constituency.

In the confusion of the 1931 crisis the Bill never reached the statute book. But it is surely odd that our parliamentarians have never, since then, addressed their minds to such a simple method of reinforcing their positions as Members of a Parliament of individual constituencies.

Yours truly,
JOHN WALLEY,
Brookland House, 24 High Street,
Cottenham, Cambridgeshire,
August 15.

Race and intelligence

From Mr Ray Ward

Sir, *The Bell Curve*, Herrnstein and Murray's study of intelligence and class structure, does indeed say that Ashkenazi Jews now test higher than any other ethnic group, but it is not true to say (Nigel Lawson, August 13) that they "routinely appeared at the bottom" when intelligence was measured at the turn of the century.

What *The Bell Curve* makes clear is that the story, often repeated to show how untrustworthy the tests and testers are, that Jews and other

immigrant groups into the US were thought below average, even feeble-minded, is a myth, based on work conducted at Ellis Island by H. H. Goddard. Goddard "explicitly pre-selected his sample for evidence of low intelligence (his purpose was to test his test's usefulness in screening for feeble-mindedness), and did not try to draw any conclusions about the general distribution of intelligence in immigrant groups".

Yours faithfully,
RAY WARD,
Flat 97, 17 Sheppard Drive, SE16,
August 13.

In praise of wasps

From Mrs Jean L. T. Coates

Sir, "If there were a purpose to wasps" writes Paul Heiney ("Time to fight the buzzing nuisance", Weekend, August 16) "I would not grumble, but I cannot think of one, nor have I ever read of one." Until today, that is, when Science Briefing tells us that certain kinds of wasp can be attracted to kill caterpillars, thereby helping "provide real benefits for subsistence farmers in Africa".

Yours sincerely,
JEAN L. T. COATES,
10 Jarrow Close,
Birkenhead, Merseyside,
August 18.

Disputed need for rules of grammar

From the General Secretary of the National Association for the Teaching of English

Sir, The explanation for the Government's change of heart about grammar tests for 14-year-olds ("Grammar test too tough for teachers", August 13) is far more complex than what you describe as the "difficulty of teaching subordinate clauses and adverbial phrases". Those simple rules are easy to teach but they are not, by themselves, sufficient.

Pupils need opportunities to analyse language in context, they need to be able to describe how language achieves its effect and then use this understanding to write clearly, precisely and effectively themselves. Any assessment of their knowledge and use of appropriate grammar or punctuation must be done through their own reading and writing (and speech), not by mechanical exercises.

That is why the approach to assessment needs to be properly thought out and why teachers will welcome the Government's rejection of the present pilot.

Yours faithfully,
ANNE BARNES,
General Secretary,
National Association for the Teaching of English,
50 Broadfield Road,
Broadfield Business Centre,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire,
August 13.

From Baroness Platt of Writtle

Sir, Recently I have read the government White Paper *Excellence in Schools*, with much of which I agree. I was therefore horrified to read that important tests in English are to be postponed because English teachers would find the grammar difficult to teach, particular mention being made of subordinate clauses and adverbial phrases.

From our public library I borrowed Cassell's *Guide to Written English*, which explains adverbial phrases (p200) in one third of a page. Is that too much for teachers to learn as part of their professional duty? The book goes on to describe "complex sentence" construction, including subordinate clauses in more detail, most interestingly. I cannot see why that should not be assimilated and taught by a qualified English teacher in a reasonably short time.

"Excellence in schools" will take a long time to achieve if there are delays like this.

Yours sincerely,
PLATT OF WRITTLE,
House of Lords,
August 19.

From Mr Robert W. McCall

Sir, If teachers do not know how to teach sentence construction in English, presumably they cannot construct sentences. How then can they teach anything?

I note that a spokeswoman for the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority said that the authority will "fine-tune them [the grammar tests] based on feedback from the teachers". Of what use will this feedback be if the teachers cannot construct sentences?

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT W. MCCALL,
16 The Dell,
Nailsea, nr Bristol,
robert.mccall@compuserve.com
August 13.

Pudding plea

From Father Keith Hodges

Sir, I was particularly interested in one item on the dinner party menu from March 1879 mentioned in Emma Wilkins's article, "Life behind the green baize door" (August 11): "Alder-shot pud".

As Vicar of an Aldershot church celebrating its 90th birthday on November 1, I think this pud might make an excellent item for consumption on the day itself, especially as the liturgy on that day will be particularly demanding.

A good "pud" may be just what everyone needs. Does anyone know the recipe?

Yours faithfully,
KEITH HODGES,
St Augustine's Vicarage,
Holly Road, Aldershot, Hampshire,
August 13.

Clean getaway

From Mrs Joan M. Bagley

Sir, The intriguing correspondence sparked off by the Reverend John Ticehurst (letter, August 15; see also letters, August 20) reminds me of an occasion when an aircraft lifebelt whistle proved indirectly to be a very attention-grabbing item.

The steward of a flight I was on had dived his way through the routine doggerel concerning safety exits, seatbelts and the use of the lifebelt, to which as usual practically nobody was listening. But everyone snapped to attention when he concluded with the words "... and a whistle to attract the attention of passing sailors". For that he got a well-deserved round of applause.

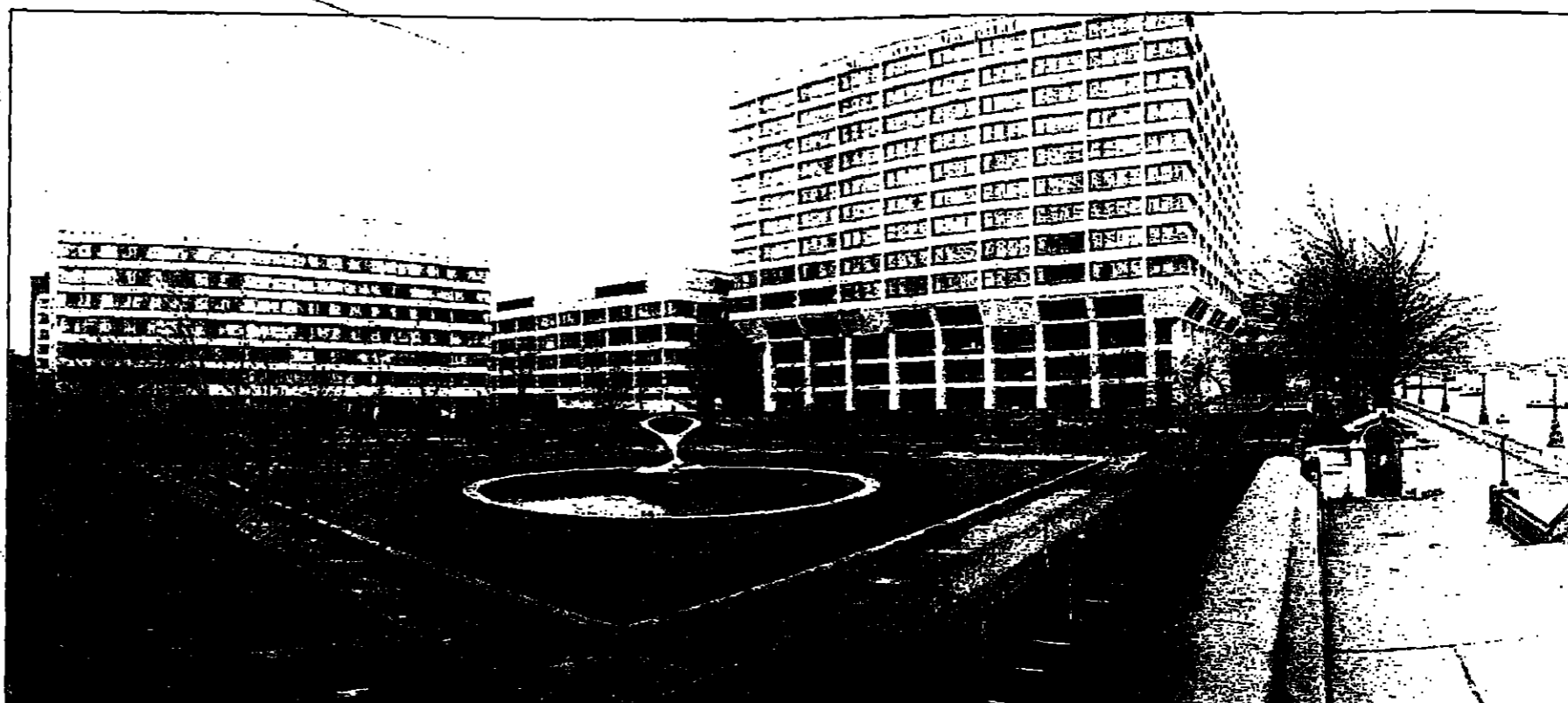
Yours truly,
JOAN BAGLEY,
Apartment 3, Saumarez Park Manor,
Route de Saumarez,
C3tel, Guernsey, CI,
August 22.

DAVID ALLFORD

Those conditions, exacerbated by



In 1957, Yorke was commissioned to design Gatwick airport, a job which he entrusted to Allford.



Sir Thomas' Hospital overlooking the Thames in London: an example of the refined yet innovative style espoused by Allford and YRM

The most notable development in the firm's style from 1960 onwards was the adoption of the white tile as a finish for concrete. This striking innovation was seized upon by Allford and a newcomer on the

Alford introduced the tile to the interior of Garwick first, and for many years after that every building facade designed by the practice was tiled. It became the firm's trademark: Keddies Supasave Store, which was completed in Southend in 1960, was tiled, and so too were the offices the architects built for themselves on the edge of

He was, however, involved in many other buildings, particularly after 1975 when Rosenberg and Mardall retired (Yorke had died in 1962). That year the firm was renamed YRM and Allford became the senior partner. The more

This attitude ensured that Allford remained largely unknown outside his own circle — not that he had any desire to be a media star. He preferred to get the work done, and done well.

looked: he was appointed CBE in 1984, was chairman of YRM from 1987 (when it was turned into a public company) until 1989 when he took early retirement, and was visiting professor at the Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London. He kept in close touch with Sheffield University where he was given an honorary doctorate, and with the Architectural Association School, where he was a member of the council in the late 1970s.

He is survived by his wife, son and two daughters.

RUTH DYSON



Dyson studied piano with Kathleen Long and Angus Morrison at the Royal College of Music, but surprised the musical world by developing a passion for the harpsichord at a time when the instrument was regarded as a curiosity, rarely seen outside museums. She maintained that it was the fine collection of early keyboard instruments at the College which kindled her interest in the harpsichord; but her devotion became concrete when Sùzie Jeans — a fellow Dorking artist — gave Dyson unlimited access to her own priceless collection of keyboard instruments.

With the purchase of a Goble harpsichord she began

her recitals at the Wignore Hall in the 1940s and the gradual acquisition of further instruments over the decade led to a clavi-chord by Thomas Goff, and virginals by Derek Adlam, among them. She allowed no branch into specialist areas. As a player she was particularly drawn to the English Baroque, and Purcell, Arne, Chilcot and notably Blow, never sounded more brilliant than under her fingers. She shared a lasting respect for this last composer with the late Handel scholar, Watkins Shaw, who for many years secretly supplied her with vintage Blow keyboard pieces he had unearthed. She championed English music all over Europe, enabling her to use her fluent German and

As a recording artist she had a particularly long association with the BBC who crowned their relationship with her by broadcasting an electric 70th birthday recital, appropriately called *Dyson's Delight*. For Wexlens Studios and Gamut she recorded large portions of the early keyboard repertoire — the complete clavichord works of Howells among them — and in 1988, for *Two to Play*, the principal keyboard duets before Mozart, with Peter Medhurst, her musical partner for the last twenty years. Medhurst remembers that a week before they were due to record, Dyson left a message on his answerphone saying that she

Through playing piano duets she met her husband, the military historian Edward Thomas, namesake and nephew of the poet. Thomas, her intellectual equal, stimulated interests outside her professional sphere while she in turn brought him into the august musical circles. Her ranging evenings at their house's chamber music, in which he played the bassoon. He was never prouder of her than when they stood side by side doing the washing-up while at the same time listening to one of her broadcasts on Radio 3. When he died last year, a vital purpose went out of her life and two days before her own death, she said to Peter Medhurst, after a recital they had just given, that she wondered if her weariness of spirit was the product of her enduring grief for her husband.

All who knew Dyson were aware that she could never have retired. Right up to the last, she travelled the country with Medhurst giving double recitals both as fellow harpsichordist and as accompanist to his songs. She died of a heart attack at the end of a happy week's coaching on the Dolmetsch summer school — surrounded by her young students and a musical family who knew her well and loved her dearly.

Ruth Dyson is survived by her stepson and stepdaughter.

YURI NIKULIN

Yuri Vladimirovich Nikulin was born in the western Russian city of Smolensk into a generation which was to be dominated by the Second World War, during which he fought with distinction on the Finnish front. After the war he wanted to become an actor but was turned down, apparently because of his comic looks. Thankfully for his Russian fans, he turned instead to the circus, enrolling at the Moscow Circus in 1950 for the training that would serve him well in his subsequent film career.

He won fame and devoted fans across the Soviet Union in the 1960s in what became the Russian equivalent of the Three Stooges, playing alongside Georgi Vitsin and Yevgeni Morgunov in a series of films following the escapades of three drunken and incompetent layabouts. His most famous role came in 1968 when he starred in the hugely popular *Diamond Arm*, about a simple Soviet worker who earns the rare privilege of going on a cruise holiday to Istanbul. The trip turns into a comic nightmare when he breaks his arm and is mistaken for a courier by a gang of diamond smugglers, who conceal the gems in his cast.

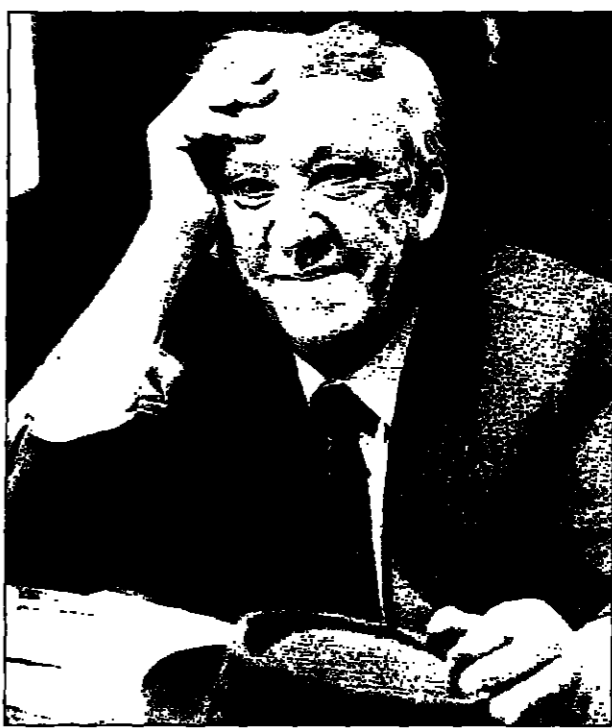
But Nikulin was not only a slapstick comic, and he will be remembered also for his more serious roles, including the children's film *Come Mukhtar*, the Russian equivalent of *Lassie*, and two war films, *They Fought for the Motherland* and *Twenty Days Without War*. Unlike the standard triumphalist Soviet war films featuring heroes conquering the Nazis, Nikulin's portrayal of the courage of the simple Russian soldier helped to humanise a conflict which cost the country millions of young lives. His ability to depict the ordinary Russian, through comedy or tragedy, and to capture something of the Russian soul, ensured his unparalleled success right through the Soviet period and the post-Communist era, when his films continue to be shown again and again. As the Russian film director Mikhail Shveistser once observed, Nikulin's greatest strength, and what made him irresistible throughout the past half century was his uncompromising determination to portray life as it really was.

"I'm sure that humour helps

people to survive the difficulties of life," Nikulin himself said earlier this year. "Laugh-ter helps those who are suffer-ing." In 1982 he returned to the Moscow Circus as artistic director and then became overall director on the famed building on Tsvetnoi Boule-vard, which was extensively renovated under his direction. Although Russian childrenre-nounce all the modern diver-sions of their Western coun-terparts, it is a tribute to his legacy that the Circus is still sold out every weekend and that a new generation of clowns are still being trained.

Nikulin's humour will survive. Since 1936 he had collected more than 10,000 jokes and anecdotes which have been widely published and which many Russians know by heart. His body will lie in state at the Moscow Circus, where tens of thousands of Russians from across the country are expected to pay their last respects. He will be buried at the Novodevichy Cemetery in Moscow, the resting place for the nation's leading figures.

He is survived by his wife
Tatyana and their son.



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Mr. William F. Sturges, 125 Lexington Street, London, SW1V 2ER died on 4th April 1996. Particulars to Messrs William Sturges & Co. (Solicitors), Ref FJH, Alliance House, 125 Lexington Street, LONDON, SW1V 2EX by the 31st October 1997.

The Board of Trade issued yesterday the following official reports on three fatal accidents which occurred during June as the result of contamination with electric currents on railway lines.

The first report, which is signed by Major Druit, is concerned with the death of Patrick Flood, on June 10, at Forbury, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway. Flood was trespassing on the live line in spite of notice-bands pointing out the danger, and in spite of rails between 4ft. and 5ft. high. Major Druit states that the railway company have protected the power rails by means of a live wire, which was not intended (but that playaters) have any access to it, and that he is on business or duty along the whole of the line worked electrically. With regard to the protection of playaters engaged, the gangers of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, Major Druit saw at work at Forbury had the iron straps of the shovel are fastened to the handle - protected by insulating material, and this protected them from shock if they accidentally touched the live wire rail with their shovel when working on the line. As the experience goes at present, it does not appear necessary to provide boarding for the 'live' rail for the whole length of the line in order to protect the

There were three fatal accidents in a month in 1904 caused by people coming into contact with the "live" rail on railway property. In spite of endless warnings, such fatalities continue today.

men employed in working the traffic, repairing the line, &c., or the passengers. The second case, the report on which is signed by Lieutenant-Colonel von Donop, occurred in June 13, when Joseph Innes, porter, was killed at Manors Station on the North-Eastern Railway. Innes was found dead on the line, his head being in contact with the live rail. The report states that the spot is one at which the company's servants habitually cross the line, and precautions should be taken to guard them from danger arising from the live rail. It is to be regretted that the live rails of the Tyneworth branch had not been guarded similarly to those of the main line. The steps

now being taken by the company are satisfactory, and should undoubtedly tend to lessen the liability of their servants coming into collision with the cars of the street cars. Lieutenant-Colonel von Donop considers that guarding should be provided to all live rails where they pass through stations, and the company's attention is therefore drawn to the advisability of carrying out this further precaution. The third report, also signed by Lieutenant-Colonel von Donop, deals with the circumstances in which a boy, Jonas Whitehead, met with his death on June 29, when he was struck by a street car on the tracks near St. Peter's Station. Although there was a subway under the line almost immediately under the spot where the accident occurred, Whitehead climbed a Stk. wall, and his bare feet came into contact with a live rail. Lieutenant-Colonel von Donop is not prepared, at the present time at all events, to recommend the Board of Trade to call upon railway companies to guard their live rails continuously. Considering, however, that the spot at which this accident occurred is one at which trespass appears to have been for some time past very common, he thinks some steps should be taken to prevent such a further access from being so easily gained to the lines. Similar steps should also be taken at any other spots where trespass is common.

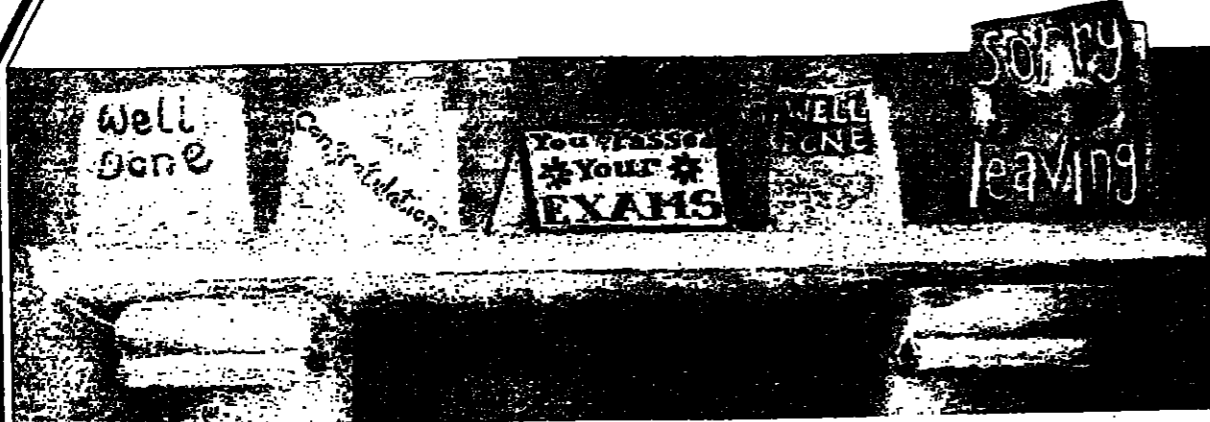
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Law Report

August 23 1997

Court of Appeal

Council cannot lower aid threshold

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Redbridge.

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THE TIMES

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft SATURDAY AUGUST 23 1997

Mean Fiddler plays the flotation tune



Power: international aim

BY CHRIS AVRES
VINCE POWER, the music industry tycoon behind this weekend's Reading Festival, yesterday revealed plans to float Mean Fiddler, his events company, to raise cash for overseas expansion.

Mean Fiddler is the organisation that runs several big music festivals in Britain, including Tribal Gathering, the Phoenix Festival and Reading. Mr Power said: "I think the only way to do it is to go to the market with what we've got. I think we will have

a lot of interest; we should hopefully be on the market by November."

Mr Power, 50, who is worth an estimated £30 million, built up his reputation as a music industry heavyweight in the 1980s by establishing a chain of London music venues, including The Forum and The Clapham Grand. He was also the driving force behind the sell-out comeback tour of the Sex Pistols last year.

Mean Fiddler's flotation plans come amid heightened competition between festival organisers, with many fashion-

able brands pouring money into big events to target a captive audience between the ages of 16 and 24.

Mike Mathieson, a director of FFI, the agency that organises sponsorship for Mean Fiddler, said: "Sponsorship deals are now worth a lot of money, whereas, in the past, companies thought that it was very risky to get involved in music or music festivals because they were too associated with sex and drugs."

Each year, rivals to Mean Fiddler's events gain more support, with festivals such as the

Virgin-sponsored V97 — held simultaneously in Leeds and Chelmsford last weekend — attracting about 200,000 fans.

V97, which has been running for only two years, was created for Virgin by the marketing company KLP, which also created T in the Park, the Tennents-sponsored festival that was held near Glenasmole, on Tayside, in July.

It is estimated that, by the end of the summer, nearly three million people will have gone to more than 20 festivals, paying between £28 and £70

for tickets to events that can last up to four days. In spite of the growing competition, events organised by Mean Fiddler have enjoyed an influx of cash from leading brands, with this year's Reading Festival attracting sponsorship from Virgin Megastores, Dr Martens and Radio 1.

The company, which yesterday refused to give any further details on its planned flotation, aims to capitalise on this sponsorship revenue by staging its events in cities all over the world, among them New York and Melbourne.

BT forces £3bn cut in MCI merger

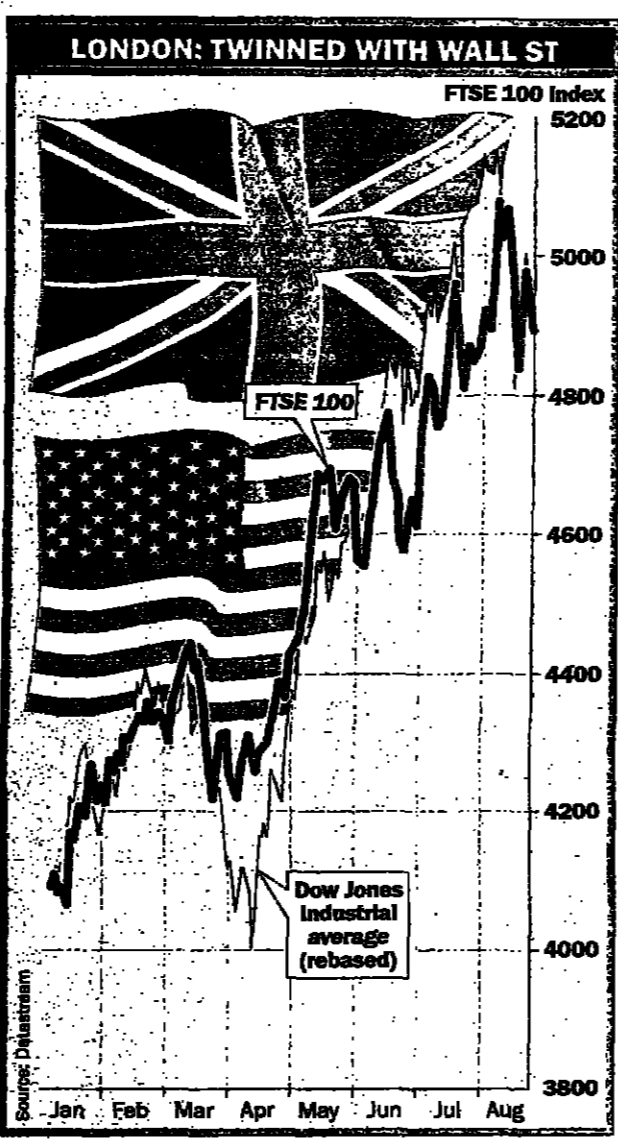
BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE merger of British Telecom and America's MCI was brought back from the brink yesterday after BT negotiated a £3 billion cut in the price it must pay for MCI.

BT shareholders now seem certain to back the deal, which was reworked after a surprise profits warning from MCI last month. BT shares rose 23p to 436p, with 180 million shares traded, as the size of the cut — up to 25 per cent depending on share price and exchange fluctuations — exceeded expectations.

Despite the debate, bonus payments promised to BT and MCI executives will remain intact. For Sir Peter Bonfield, chief executive, completion of the deal could mean an extra £500,000 over the next two years. For MCI senior executives there is a £100 million bonus pot on offer.

The shares and cash offer for the 80 per cent of MCI shares that BT does not already own changes with the relative share price of the companies and exchange rates. At Thursday's closing price, when the new terms were set out, the deal was



Shares follow Dow for third Friday retreat

BY GRAHAM SERJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

WITH A sense of inevitability, shares prices again retreated round the globe on the coattails of Wall Street. Shoulder-slumping traders, perhaps prematurely, treated the third successive Friday drop as an embarrassingly bad August habit rather than any sign of incipient collapse.

New York again played the lead. Top shares had fallen by an average of 1.6 per cent by lunchtime, but these losses merely gobbled up the gains made since the previous Friday's drop. At that stage, the Dow-Jones industrial average had shed 128 points in a morning to 7,766, yet was still 1 per cent higher than the previous Friday's close of 7,695.

Share price falls again went hand in hand with a receding dollar. It slid nearly two cents against sterling, to \$1.6060, and by 2p pennings against the mark, to DM 1.81. The pound eased against the mark too after the Bundesbank signalled more aggressive tactics on Thursday, leaving the Sterling index a touch higher.

A worrying feature was that bond prices also edged down in London and New York.

The London Stock Exchange followed a similar pattern as it has done most of this year. The FTSE 100 index lost 76.9 points, or 1.5 per cent, to 4,901.1. Dealers were keen to square their books for Monday when London's is closed and other centres open.

London's blue chip shares still finished the week on average 0.7 per cent higher than they started. For all the weekly alarms, leading shares are much as they were at the beginning of the month.

Earlier, Tokyo had followed Thursday's drop in New York. The Nikkei 225-share index shed 507 points, or 2.6 per cent, to 18,650. The Nikkei lost 3.5 per cent on the week, continuing its relapse from about 2,050 since mid-July. On the Continent, most bourses anticipated further trouble in America. In Amsterdam, the AEX index lost 3.35 per cent.

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BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET	FTSE 100	4901.1	(-76.9)
Yield	3.37%		
FTSE All share	2312.11	(-30.39)	
Nikkei	18650.17	(-508.35)	
New York	7712.78	(+112.19)	
Dow Jones	7766	(+128)	
S&P Composite	612.39	(-12.65)	

CURRENCY	Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
	Long Bond	9 5/8%	(9 5/8%)
	Yield	6.57%	(6.61%)

LONDON MONEY	3-month interest	7 1/4%	(7 1/4%)
	Life long gilt	11 1/4%	(11 1/4%)

STERLING	New York	1.6115	(1.620)
	London	1.6053	(1.5972)
	DM	2.9171	(2.9226)
	FF	6.8201	(6.8561)
	SP	2.4006	(2.4052)
	Yen	168.45	(168.63)
	E index	101.7	(101.5)

US\$/\$	London	1.6168	(1.6205)
	DM	6.1120	(6.1945)
	FF	1.4877	(1.5138)
	Yen	117.19	(117.20)
	E index	108.5	(108.2)

TOKYO	Tokyo close Yen	177.28	
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MORNING STAR	Best 15-day (Nov)	518.65	(518.65)
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STOCKS	London	3324.85	(3324.05)
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* denotes midday trading price

Receiver in at Village Nurseries

ABOUT 750 jobs came under threat yesterday as administrative receivers were called into English Village Nurseries, a fresh produce supplier 33 per cent owned by Geest, the publicly quoted fruit group (George Sijel writes).

The company is a big producer of fresh tomatoes and supplies them to supermarkets. Buchler Phillips, the administrative receiver, said that it had been appointed after several months of very difficult trading conditions and after a big litigation claim against one of English Village Nurseries' fertiliser suppliers over an allegedly faulty product.

Simon Freakley, of Buchler Phillips, said: "Interest has always been shown in the business by potential buyers and we are confident that the business will be sold as a going concern. It is very much business as usual and we shall be working with the company's management and staff to ensure that the business is not disrupted."

Manufacturers boost spending on investment

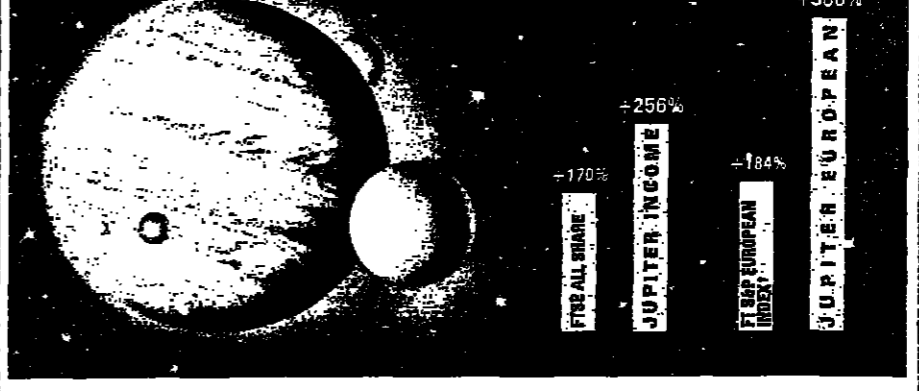
BY RACHEL HOLMES
MANUFACTURING investment has remained robust in spite of pressure on exports from the higher pound.

British manufacturers invested £3.62 billion between April and June, according to Office of National Statistics data released yesterday. The figures represent a 10 per cent increase over the first three months of the year, and a 26 per cent rise over the same period last year.

A different set of official figures released on Thursday showed investment overall is stagnating, with gross fixed capital formation rising by only 0.1 per cent in the three months to the end of June. This moribund performance appears to be attributed largely to subdued government and housing expenditure. Business investment — which comprises manufacturing, some services industries, construction and other production industries — as a whole grew by 4.8 per cent quarter-on-quarter, and 8.5 per cent year-on-year. While capital expenditure by services remained broadly constant at £8.15 billion, spending by construction and manufacturing firms rose dramatically. In construction, capital expenditure rose 48 per cent on first quarter figures, and 19 per cent on the second quarter of 1996.

The main reason for spending on such fixed assets is to increase efficiency; expanding capacity is a relatively unimportant concern. Domestic demand is strong, but the appreciation of sterling has placed a premium on maintaining low costs so as to compete at home and abroad. Globalisation and the low inflation environment have also had an impact. Firms now lack the pricing power to be able to pass on cost increases, currency-induced or not.

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Bar chart: *Offer to bid, net income reinvested 1.87-1.87. Source: Microcap. †Excluding UK. Five year performance to 1.87; Jupiter Income +233% (1st out of 80 sector funds); FTSE All Share +137%; Jupiter European +228% (2nd out of 108 sector funds); FTSEP European Index +163.0%; offer to bid, net income reinvested. Source: Microcap.

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Channel 5 'will be worth £1bn'

BY JASON NISSE
CHANNEL 5, the television channel launched only at Easter, is already worth £440 million and will be worth as much as £1 billion by the year 2000, according to analysis being presented today by a leading bank.

This compares with a budgeted investment of only £300 million into the station by its four shareholders — Pearson, United News & Media, CLT, the Luxembourg-based broadcaster, and Warburg Pincus, the US investment bank.

In a speech being given today at the Edinburgh International Television Festival, Anthony Fry, managing director of Barclays de Zoete Wedd, will dismiss what he describes as "self-serving criticisms" of Channel 5's performance since its launch.

He will point to Channel 5's success in securing feature films and the rights to the European matches of Premiership teams such as Arsenal as helping to build an audience. "Channel 5 can be a financial and commercial success as a rather ordinary broadcaster," Mr Fry is saying.

Latest figures show Channel 5 winning an audience share of 3.1 per cent despite only being received by 63 per cent of the viewing public in the UK. This is expected to increase as new transmitters come on line and, in the areas where it is received, the channel has a 5 per cent share. BZW has compared the value of Channel 5 to the prices paid in recent deals to buy TV stations, notably United's £371 million purchase of HTV Group, which broadcasts in Wales and the West Country and commands just 2.6 per cent of the national TV audience.

"All the forecasters are expecting substantial increases in both advertising and audience shares by the year 2000," Mr Fry says. "By that time, Channel 5 could be worth close on £1 billion."

On that basis United's stake will be worth nearly £300 million and Pearson's nearly £250 million, having invested no more than £160 million between them.

Malaysian circular reveals depth of UK contractor's problems

Frustrated chief leaves ailing Costain

By Mark Court

THE head of civil engineering at Costain, the embattled contractor, has resigned as the company struggles to overcome its latest financial crisis.

George May, who had been with the company for 28 years and who had been tipped to become chief executive, left in frustration after the company, which was once one of the biggest names in UK building, failed to sort out its problems.

Mr May, a managing direc-

tor, left on the June 30, but his resignation was not announced because he was no longer a main board member.

The depth of Costain's problems was revealed yesterday in a circular to shareholders in India, the Malaysian company owning 37.2 per cent of Costain.

The circular, distributed in Malaysia, said that, for Costain to stay a going concern,

"the group must secure additional funding in order to meet its working capital requirements". It added: "The level of funding will determine whether the group has adequate headroom to meet any additional requirements."

Intra paid £3 million for its Costain stake in July last year, believing that it had rescued the company and that it had opened the door to winning a huge amount of inter-

national construction work. However, the circular puts the book value of the Costain investment at just £20.7 million and says that the company will be loss-making for at least the next two years.

Intra forecasts that it will lose £2.37 million on its Costain shareholding this year and £1.52 million next year. Even these losses are based on an assumption that "signifi-

cant new work will be won in order to secure profits for the estimate and forecast period". Costain is close to announcing a debt-for-equity swap with its bankers to cut debt thought to be about £22 million. Intra's stake will be reduced to just over 30 per cent, causing observers to suggest that up to 25 per cent of Costain's equity will go to the banks, led by National Westminster. This would wipe out Costain's debt.

A £40 million cash injection is also rumoured for the group, although the identity of the investor remains a mystery. The investor is almost certainly from overseas, where Costain has a slightly less hampered reputation than in the UK.

Shares in Costain were suspended in November last year. The company's delayed 1996 accounts are expected shortly, and the shares may be relisted this autumn.

Investment in ethical funds more than doubles

By Gavin Lumsden

PRIVATE investors are pouring money into ethical funds. New figures out today show that ethical funds have more than doubled their assets in the past three years.

Funds under management in ethical unit and investment trusts grew from £672.3 million in July 1994 to £1.4 billion last month, according to the Ethical Investment Research Service (EIRIS). This growth outpaced conventional funds, which increased by a relatively meagre 55 per cent.

Nevertheless, conscience-driven investment remains a minority activity, just under 1 per cent of the £150 billion of funds under management, up by just 0.3 per cent since 1994. Karen Eldridge, head of client services at EIRIS, said the figures showed that ethical

financial products such as personal pension and savings plans were here to stay.

Under a Labour Government the sector was ready to make a quantum leap into the mainstream, she suggested. "Robin Cook is talking about an ethical foreign policy. Clare Short at International Development is working to establish ethical trading. Before the election Tony Blair talked about stakeholding. Companies should not just be looking at the bottom line; they should be looking at improving their relations with customers, suppliers and the wider community."

A launch of an ethical fund from a well-known manager such as Schroders or Morgan Grenfell would also help. In addition, she argued that financial advisers should be obliged to ask their clients if they wanted to invest ethically.

There are around 40 ethical unit and investment trusts today. Friends Provident Stewardship is the biggest, with £370 million of investors' money. Friends Provident, the mutual insurer which runs it, started out as a Quaker foundation in the last century.

Traditional religious hang-ups form the foundation of ethical investment. Most ethical funds still avoid companies involved with tobacco, alcohol and pornography. However, military production and environmental harm were soon added to the list. More recently ethical funds have started to use positive criteria in their stock selection, picking companies who are actively involved in improving the environment and care about their community.

By their nature ethical funds are unable to invest in blue chip members of the FTSE 100 index. This can affect their performance. All ethical funds had a terrific run until this spring when a bull market in the banks and pharmaceuticals left them standing.

Liverpool Bay oil boosts Monument

By George Sivel

MONUMENT Oil and Gas, the independent oil company, enjoyed the benefit of first production at the Liverpool Bay field in the North Sea in the six months to June 30.

Sales more than doubled from £8.3 million to £17 million and operating profits rose from £6.5 million to £15.4 million. However, the impact of putting £37 million of interest charges into the profit and loss account kept growth in after-tax profits down from £6.8 million to £7.9 million. Earnings per share rose from 0.96p to 1.13p and again there is no dividend. Last year shareholders received £33 million in a complex capital reorganisation.

Production rose 55 per cent to 22,700 barrels of oil equivalent a day, although Monument says that Liverpool Bay suffered some delays and is not yet up to full production. It is approaching target levels and was averaging more than 50,000 barrels a day by the half-year end.

The main thrust of Monument's expansion plans remains overseas. Field operations have begun in Turkmenistan.

Tullow Oil yesterday said that its development plans for the Sana field in Pakistan had received approval from the Government. Gas from the field will be delivered to Gudu power station, operated by the Pakistan water and power development authority. Tullow shares rose 15p to 109 1/2p.

Tempus, page 32



Sir Ian Prosser has led Bass out of Carlsberg-Tetley after the blocking of its merger bid

Bass exits Carlsberg-Tetley

By Our City Staff

BASS, the brewing and leisure group, has exercised and completed its option to sell all its interests in Carlsberg-Tetley, the brewer, to Carlsberg of Denmark for £110 million.

Bass exercised the option after a decision by Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, to block its proposed merger with Carlsberg-Tetley. Under the terms of the 1996 merger agreement signed between Bass and Allied

Domeq, the wines and spirits group, Bass has also asked Allied to refund £30 million paid by Bass for Allied's stake in Carlsberg-Tetley.

Bass, whose chairman is Sir Ian Prosser, announced last August its plan to acquire Allied's 50 per cent stake in Carlsberg-Tetley for £200 million. The group also planned to buy the rest of the business from Carlsberg in exchange for Carlsberg tak-

ing a 20 per cent stake in the merged company.

Bass expects to make a net loss from the failed merger bid of about £60 million before taking account of income from its 50 per cent share of Carlsberg-Tetley's profits earned while its bid was under review.

Bass's bid for Carlsberg-Tetley was the first significant judgment on a competition issue after Mrs Beckett came to office.

UK car output falls in face of forecasts

By Rachel Holmes

CAR production in the United Kingdom fell by a seasonally adjusted 7.9 per cent in the six months to July compared with the previous half-year period, according to figures released yesterday by the Office for National Statistics.

Compared with the same period a year earlier, production for the home market fell 9.9 per cent.

This picture seems at odds with other evidence suggesting that UK car manufacturers are enjoying a relatively good year.

With the economy buoyant and windfalls burning holes in some consumers' pockets, the domestic retail market has been more resilient than many would have anticipated. The Government's Budget in June did not hit corporate cars as badly as it might have done.

Continued weak demand in many continental European economies, the destination of the majority of cars exported, has affected production to a certain extent.

However production decisions are relatively immune to the strength of sterling in the short term.

Indeed, on an unadjusted basis, cars manufactured for export in the six months to July increased 12.4 per cent compared with the same period in 1996.

Moreover, according to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, cars produced for the domestic market jumped to 90,210 in July, up 6.9 per cent on July 1996, to meet the peak demand in August.

Sales this month are expected to reach as high as 490,000 to 500,000 units. But experts anticipate a slight easing of production in the second half as the effects of the stronger currency kick in, eroding the UK's competitive edge.

Domestic demand may also decline as higher interest rates make finance schemes more expensive and growth rates slow.

Pyrex creator sells houseware business

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

CORNING, whose glass casserole dishes and ceramic pans have brought joy to generations of chefs and housewives, is to sell its houseware business to a New York-based investment firm.

Since the company's creation 82 years ago, its Pyrex measuring cups, Correlle dishes and Revere Ware pots are the staples of every kitchen in North America, and few British homes are without them. Corning, however, has branched increasingly into the more lucrative high-technology business of optical fibre cables for telephone lines. Last year, houseware contributed \$630 million (£394 million) to

total company sales of \$3.7 billion, and made only \$38 million in net profit.

AEA Investors, founded in 1969 as a private investment firm, outbid at least six rivals for an 89 per cent stake in Corning Consumer Products Co, the company's houseware arm. Although figures were not disclosed, it is believed that Corning stands to earn about \$975 million before taxes, of which \$753 million will be in cash. The balance is to come in a refinancing package. A source close to Corning said that after-tax profit would amount to about \$230 million. Corning will retain 1 per cent of the business.

AEA Investors, whose shares hit a five-year low of \$2.12 before bid rumours surfaced two months ago, also released disappointing interim results yesterday.

Ennstone bid for Bruntcliffe

Ennstone, the quarrying and aggregates company, has made an agreed £26.2 million bid for Bruntcliffe Aggregates in which it owns a 9.4 per cent stake (Chris Ayres writes).

The deal will see 15 new Ennstone shares issued for every Bruntcliffe share, valued at 48.75p each. Mineral and General Investments, whose 4.2 per cent stake in Bruntcliffe was transferred after a prolonged dispute, will be allowed to vote for the takeover.

If the bid is completed, Bruntcliffe's three directors will receive about £1.4 million in bonuses and severance pay. Ennstone will place \$3.3 million shares at 3p each, raising £2.5 million to fund the payments.

Care First's chief quits in board rift

By Fraser Nelson

CHAI PATEL has resigned as chief executive of Care First, the nursing group, after deciding that he could not share the boardroom with Keith Bradshaw, its executive chairman.

Dr Patel, whose Court Cavendish healthcare group merged with Mr Bradshaw's Takara group last October, is in line for a £230,000 payoff — equivalent to 14 months' pay. He will also leave with a shareholding worth £1.66 million.

In a letter of resignation, Dr Patel said: "I have come to the conclusion that the group does not require an executive chairman and a chief executive."

Mr Bradshaw said that he was saddened by the affair.

He said: "When we merged, we decided to take the roles which we did and run our respective businesses, but we always knew that the capacity for disruption was there."

"He just felt that two into one did not go. I did not see this coming at all. There was certainly a clash of management styles — we are both very strong-minded individuals — but there is no hard feeling. I learned a lot from him and I have always respected him."

Mr Bradshaw said the board intends to recruit a new chief executive to work alongside himself as executive chairman and later as full-time, non-executive chairman.

Swiss head of Bally quits over differences

ERNST THOMKE, Switzerland's most renowned company turnaround specialist, resigned yesterday as head of the Bally International shoe division of Oerlikon-Buehrle Holding. Oerlikon said: "The reasons are irreconcilable differences of opinion between Oerlikon-Buehrle Holding AG and Ernst Thomke. These lie outside the existing strategies, concepts and the work introduced at Bally."

Bally, specialising in shoes, leather goods and upmarket clothes, hired Mr Thomke as chief executive officer in September 1995. His successor has not yet been named. Mr Thomke, 58, is credited with reviving a string of moribund Swiss companies, including Swiss watchmaker Ste Suiss. Microelectronique et d'Horlogerie SA (SMH) and Saurer, a textile machinery and automobile component maker. Mr Thomke let it be known during an interview in early August that he might resign unless problems were resolved. A spokesman for Mr Thomke said: "It has nothing to do with the strategy and the concepts, and what we are doing with the restructuring of Bally. This will be continued in the same way." The differences were well-known and related to how and when to float Bally and board discussions on content.

Views sought on Fedsure

THE Office of Fair Trading said yesterday that it was inviting public comment on the acquisition by Fedsure, the South African financial services group, of Beale Dobie, the market-maker in secondhand endowment policies majority owned by Hambros Insurance Services. The Office of Fair Trading said that it was considering whether the proposed acquisition should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The deadline for public comment has been set for September 8.

Mallett turnover up 35%

MALLETT, the fine art dealer, lifted pre-tax profits to £1.19 million from £773,000 in the six months to June 30, on turnover that rose 35 per cent to £7 million from £5.2 million. Earnings advanced to 5.84p a share from 3.75p and the interim dividend is increased to 1.3p a share from 1.1p. The company said that although the strength of sterling had adversely affected sales in continental Europe, it had little impact on sales to America. Normally about 80 per cent of Mallett's business involves buyers in Britain and America.

Graystone chief resigns

GRAYSTONE, the engineering and components distribution group, yesterday announced the resignation of Dick Richardson, the non-executive chairman. The company said Mr Richardson, who will pursue other interests, would be succeeded by Bob Wickham, a non-executive director, while a search began for a permanent replacement. Last week, Graystone, based in Wilmslow, Cheshire, ended takeover talks with an unnamed company. Yesterday the shares fell 5p to a new low of 38 1/2p. A year ago the shares were worth 150p.

Cliveden blames delays

CLIVEDEN, the hotels group, gave warning yesterday that planning delays would hit results for the full year to October 31, 1997. The shares, however, rose 2p to 63 1/2p. Cliveden said planning approval delays have had an adverse effect on the current year results, but it was "confident that targeted levels of profitability and return on capital remain achievable". The company said it has now received three planning approvals, which will allow it to expand its three hotels, Cliveden, the Cliveden Town House and the Royal Crescent Hotel.

Dunloe makes cash call

DUNLOE HOUSE, the Irish property company whose shares have been suspended at 32 1/2p, yesterday announced a £125 million (£22.7 million) placing and open offer at 18p a share. Existing shareholders are being offered nine new shares for every five held. Dunloe also announced the acquisition of properties owned by Monarch, Aviette and Chetwood for around £121 million. In the six months to June 30 Dunloe made £1405,406 (£126,613). Earnings were 0.44p (0.02p). Once again there is no dividend.

Bond's jail term raised

ALAN BOND, the failed Australian entrepreneur, has been jailed for an extra three years for his part in Australia's biggest corporate fraud. An appeal court in Western Australia said that a four-year sentence imposed in February failed to reflect the seriousness of his crimes. Thousands of small investors in Bond schemes lost their money after his empire collapsed. Bond, 59, who could have sought parole in 1998, now has an earliest possible release date of June 1999. He is serving a concurrent three-year sentence for an earlier fraud.

Vaux sells five hotels

VAUX, the hotels, pubs and brewing company, is selling five of its three-star Swallow hotels to Chasley Lifestyle. The sale was announced yesterday, along with the completion of the disposal of the 38-strong St Andrews nursing homes chain to Highfield Group. The combined proceeds of the transactions comes to £48 million, with the potential for a further £3 million from the sale of the St Andrews sale. Vaux currently has two four-star hotels under construction in Liverpool and Huntingdon at a cost of £14 million.

Tinsley Robor grows

TINSLEY ROBOR, the supplier of packaging to the music and multimedia publishing industries, is to buy Pinepoint, a pre-press company, for £2.7 million, of which £1.7 million is due on completion, with the balance payable over the next three years. Pinepoint, which earned £350,000 before tax but after non-recurring items on turnover of £2 million, will work alongside Sonitex, Tinsley Robor's design and pre-press subsidiary. Colin Baker will continue to manage Pinepoint, but Doug Roach, its co-founder, is leaving the business.

Shares fall as suitors fight shy of Appleyard

By Mark Court

SHARES in Appleyard, the car and truck retailer, plunged by 15 per cent yesterday after the company announced that bid talks were off.

PDFM, the company's major shareholder, prompted the talks with rival distributors, including Sanderson Bramall, after growing dissatisfaction with Appleyard's performance.

John Atkin, Appleyard's finance director, said: "We have suggested a price which our advisers believed should be paid to the share-

holders." Potential bidders are understood to have received a frosty reception from car manufacturers, including Germany's Volkswagen and Audi, that control Appleyard's key franchises.

Now that takeover talks have collapsed, the hunt is back on for a new and executive to replace Mike Williamson in a bid to revive the struggling business.

Appleyard, whose shares hit a five-year low of 52p before bid rumours surfaced two months ago, also released disappointing interim results yesterday.

Interim pre-tax profits were down from £4.6 million to £3.9 million, including an exceptional profit of £725,000 as part of the company's restructuring.

Mr Atkin said: "The aim is to produce a smaller and more robust car business."

Appleyard now has 41 dealerships, after disposing of 13 which used up £2.6 million of provisions in the first half. It intends to shed a further four in the second half.

The company has fallen victim to the restructuring of car dealerships, where manufacturers are giving

larger areas to fewer dealers.

An interim dividend of 2p, compared with 3.1p, will be paid on October 2. Earnings fell to 3.7p a share from 4.4p.

Turnover was down marginally to £380 million from £390.5 million. Rationalisation of the group's franchises resulted in lower volumes of passenger cars, although outlets enjoyed higher margins on new and used cars and an improved stockturn.

New car deliveries in the key trading month of August were described as "encouraging."



Williamson: hunt for successor

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Ann Iverson, chief executive of Laura Ashley, went uncharacteristically quiet as rumours circulated of weak sales, factory closures and a disastrous American expansion programme. For a woman who promised success, failure on her home territory was particularly galling.

OUR SUNDAY TIMES IN THE SUNDAY PAPER

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.95	2.97
Canada \$	0.68	0.69
Denmark kr	6.46	6.48
France F	16.35	16.37
Germany DM	1.93	1.94
Italy Lira	2036	2040
Japan Yen	160.00	160.50
Netherlands Gld	2.20	2.21
New Zealand \$	2.50	2.51
Portugal Esc	200.48	200.50
Spain Ptas	166.64	166.66
Sweden Kr	4.66	4.67
Switzerland Sfr	2.00	2.01
Turkey Lira	275.20	275.40
USA \$	1.71	1.72

Based on small denomination banknotes only as quoted by Reuters. Bank rates may differ from those in the paper. Rates are at close of trading yesterday.

A WORKING WEEK FOR: VITTORIO RADICE

The man from Milan reshaping Selfridges

Sarah Cunningham meets the Italian busy expanding Oxford Street's most famous store as it prepares for independence from Sears

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

VITTORIO RADICE was looking a bit weary. It was the end of his first week back at work after a fortnight's holiday in Greece, and he had found himself immersed in meeting after meeting about the "mega-projects". These include reorganising the Oxford Street store, opening the first regional Selfridges in Manchester, next year, looking for a store site in Glasgow; opening a new warehouse; and, of more importance to shareholders than to shoppers, demerging Selfridges from its ill-fated parent, Sears. As chief executive of Selfridges, all these projects fall into his lap.

The day before we met, Radice, 40, who is married with two children, had dragged himself away for a trip to his native city of Milan to visit a handful of the fashion designers who provide Selfridges with the all-important labels that fill its clothing department racks. Although to talk to him, labels seem to dominate Radice's thoughts, they do not dominate his person. He was dressed with Italian understatement in grey trousers, blue and white shirt and brown loafers. Any flashy labels were well-hidden. His weariness was disguised by a deep tan, and his manner was brisk and businesslike.

Quoted in print he can come across as a typical expansive Latin, but in person he is serious and unsentimental. He admitted that he had not found time on his trip to Milan to visit his mother, for an Italian, that is not just unsentimental, it is positively cold-blooded.

Indeed, in spite of all the problems with which his "mega-projects" in London present him, his daytrip to Italy had not made Radice at all homesick. He has been in London for seven years, working until March last year as head of Habitat UK, and he is a big fan of his adopted home. "It has restaurants, art, music," he says. "It is easy to move around. London is the best place to be; it is the capital of Europe."

Within London, he feels, unsurprisingly, that Selfridges has a special place. The refurbishment of the store, which began long before he joined and has a lot further to go — will, he believes, reinforce its position. His aim is to make it the most stylish department store in London.

Its four floors are being redesigned so that customers will for the first time be able to see clear from one side of the huge shop to the other, and space for retailing is to be reclaimed from the offices now occupied by Selfridges and Sears managers. Once all the work is done, well into the next millennium, Selfridges will trade from more space than Harrods currently does, although Harrods's own expansion plans mean that Selfridges will probably

never quite catch up. It should all be good for trade in the long term. For the moment, though, the disruption caused by the work, as well as the drop in tourist numbers this summer, are making trade more difficult.

The Selfridges store was developed in three phases, between 1909 and 1934, as new areas of the Oxford Street block, which houses not just the store but also the Selfridges hotel and garage, were added. Due to the haphazard growth, there was only one bank of escalators in the huge 500,000 sq ft store. This is being changed, and escalators are being put in all around the store.

Numerous architects and planners are involved in moving departments around the shop to make the layout more logical. Selfridges has also taken on a new catering manager to oversee its 14 eateries, which will be added to with a sushi bar next year. In Radice's view, the bars and restaurants are of key importance to Selfridges. "Everything looks very different over a glass of wine," he says.

Meanwhile, with all this work going on, the shop has to be kept ticking over. One crisis to be dealt with during Radice's week occurred in the wedding list department. "It is a very popular operation and we are currently refusing new applications because we have too many," he says. "The machine has been running at full steam too long and has broken down." The consequences of a breakdown can be nasty. "People getting married can get very nervous, and, if they don't receive everything, they go wild," he says.

The aim now is to clear the backlog of applications and separate the consultants from the people arranging the deliveries.

Radice is well known in the world of retailing, but he is an unknown quantity in the City. Next year's demerger should change all that. Radice, like everyone else in Sears, is unwilling to go into detail about the demerger, which SBC Warburg is currently preparing. In the week in question, Radice said that he had had "a small chat before lunch" one day on the matter, but says that it was no more than an update on the timetable, which should see Selfridges quoted on the stock market in the middle of next year.

He describes the prospect of being chief executive of a PLC as "very, very exciting", but does not see it as being very different from how things are now. "The only thing that will be added to the equation will be that I'll have to deal with the shareholders directly, but, as far as the handling of the company is concerned, there is no difference," he says.

Even though the Manchester store, which at 160,000 sq ft will be very small compared with Oxford Street, is still under construction, plans are already advanced for the layout of the floors and the goods that will be stocked. Radice spends little time visiting the site yet, but a lot of time



Vittorio Radice, chief executive of Selfridges, tours the Oxford Street store during a break from planning a Manchester launch and seeking a Glasgow site

discussing how it is going to look and feel. Like the London store, the emphasis will be on Radice's beloved labels.

"We have made a conscious decision to come out of private label," he says. "We are in the business of retailing; we are not in the business of designing and manufacturing. What we are trying to do is to be the first one to introduce brands." Selfridges's strength in offering brands is that it is what he calls "a melting pot" serving every type of customer. However, to keep all the brands in store, the likes of Prada, Ralph Lauren and Katherine Hammet must be kept happy by allowing them a lot of say in how their goods are presented. Keeping the dialogue going is the reason for the regular visits to them in Milan, New York and Paris.

London might like to think that it is more sophisticated than the provinces, but Radice dismisses any concerns about a different type of customer in Manchester. The city is packed with new designer stores, he says.

One of the things he likes about the Oxford Street Selfridges is that, because it was left more or less to its own devices for 20 years, it has kept many of its quirky little departments. These include a pharmacy, safe deposit boxes, the car park, a

fresh meat counter and a flower shop. "These all generate tremendous traffic and it lets people go away with a little bit more than they expected," he says.

Department stores as a whole, after a moribund period, are on the up and up. According to a report published earlier this month by the Verdict consultancy, their sales are ahead of general retail sales and 15 new department stores are due to open in the next four years; Selfridges's Manchester store is just one of them.

Moreover, Debenhams, which is second only to John Lewis in market share, is

going the same way as Selfridges and is being demerged from its parent, The Burton Group, next year.

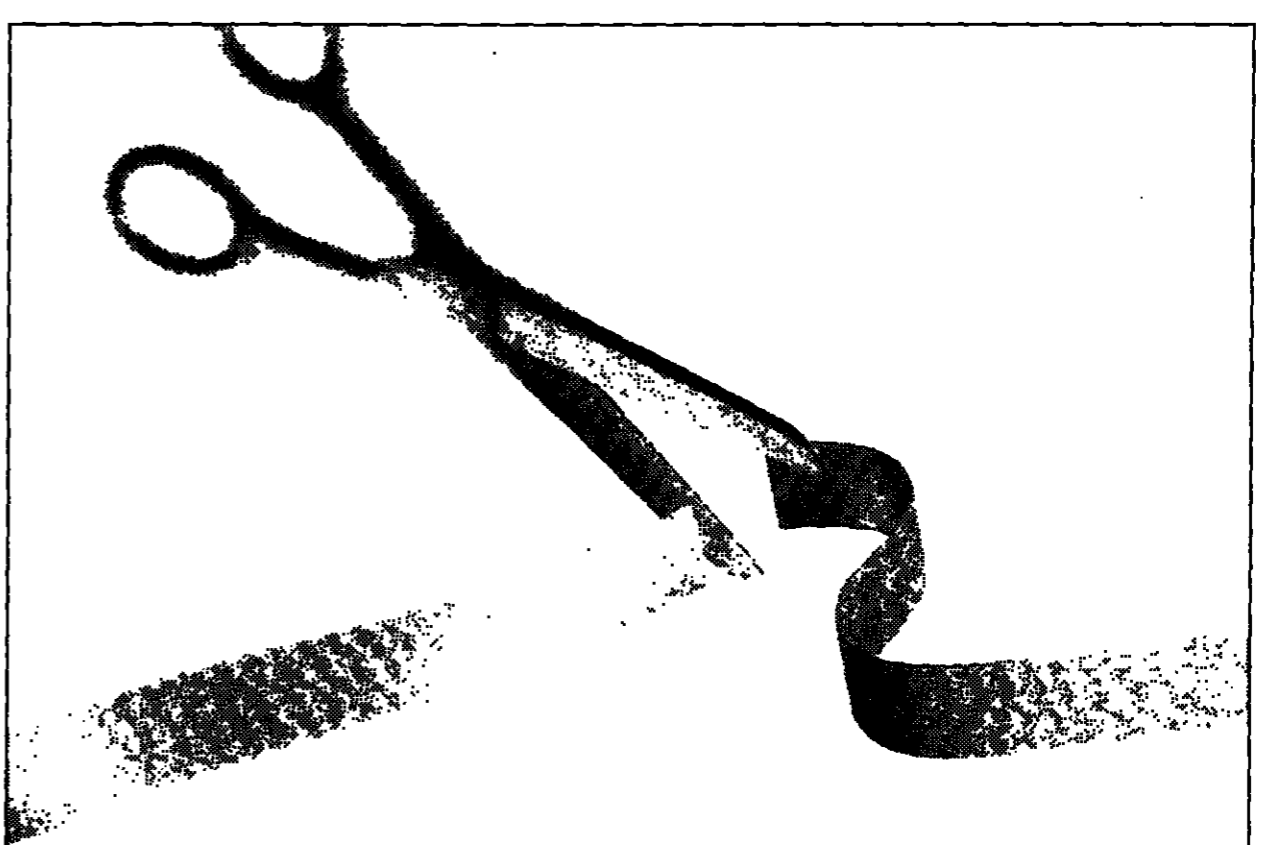
So just how competitive is it out there? "Very," Radice says. Debenhams, after developing strong own labels, is now selling big brands such as Calvin Klein's CK and Jasper Conran. "If they move up market, I have to push further up too," Radice says. "It is a question of how upmarket I can go. When Versace was killed, we sold out of Versace."

After his hectic week, and after finishing the interview, the rest of his Friday could be spent on staff matters and walking about the store. He says that his one big regret is that he has had too little time to spend with the staff. Relations have not been entirely smooth, as wit-

nessed by the fact that Mary Litchfield, a former senior manager who was not appointed to the board, as she had expected, is taking the company to court for alleged sex discrimination.

The changes being introduced in the company, and the near-chaos of being within Sears in the past few years, cannot have helped staff morale. "The changes are overwhelming," Radice says. "People need to be embraced and loved."

With the pace of change at Selfridges set to quicken, rather than to slow down, running the business — plus embracing and loving thousands of staff in London, Manchester and perhaps eventually Glasgow — Radice runs the risk of ending up not just weary, but completely worn out.



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T/93

Cover version

WHO NEEDS Mystic Meg? When it comes to president predictions, I will be relying on the foresight of the investment trust research team at brokers Credit Lyonnais Laing. All you need to know about the first few months of the Labour Government was contained in a cartoon on the cover of Laing's 1996 investment trust yearbook, which was published a year before the election victory.

The cartoon shows Tony Blair, surrounded by his Cabinet buddies, arriving at the airport. A plethora of policy papers are floating around, and one clearly says: "Tax credits", correctly predicting the change on dividend tax credits in Gordon Brown's first Budget. But, more significantly, Brown is seen arm-in-arm with a woman, predicting his romance with PR woman Sarah Macaulay.

Mark Jeffries, who heads the team, confesses: "We did think about tax credits, but not about Gordon Brown. Alas we don't have a hotline to HQ, I wish we had." This must be a relief to Peter Mandelson, who is shown disappearing towards the exit gate with John Major and the dispossessed Tories.



Debra Davis of Amex is still going for gold

Wright-off

NO DOUBT to the intense irritation of fans of Tottenham Hotspur, it has been almost impossible to move this week without coming across Ian Wright, the effervescent Arsenal striker, who is expected to knock a couple of goals past hapless Southampton today and so breach a 50-year-old goal-scoring record. But attempts by Chrysalis, the media group run by QPR boss Chris Wright, to cash in on Wright's achievements have been stumped. Chrysalis Sports, which has a contract with Arsenal, wanted to produce a commemorative video to be sold to all fans of football once the goal is scored. Only the star of the show will not play ball, as it were. Wright refused to agree to any video deal before the record is broken because he thinks that it might be bad luck.

□ IT WILL be interesting to see how the City takes to the prospect of a company joining the stock market that backs rock festivals and is run by a former livestock inseminator from Ireland. I have always thought that the Mean Fiddler Organisation sounded like the sort of international syndicate that does battle with Batman and Robin.

Dead lines

ATTEMPTS by BT and MCI to put their £11 billion merger back on track were hampered yesterday by technical problems. The global communications giants were trying to inform the markets in New York and London simultaneously through a transatlantic link. But while a Wall Street analyst was attempting to grill BT's chairman, Sir Ian Vallowance, the line went dead.



In London the audience could see his lips moving, but no words came out. Three attempts to restore the sound failed before a London wag asked: "Is this a BT or MCI line?"

Gold reserve

I AM finding it difficult to restrain my excitement at the prospect of being able to pay £40 a year to American Express for the pleasure of a gold credit card. According to Debra Davis, who is vice-president of American Express, the growth in the ownership of gold cards clearly demonstrates that the time is right for the group to launch a credit card in a colour other than green.

But, in spite of Davis telling me how important it is for anyone in the know to have a gold Amex, the world has clearly changed since the company launched its gold charge card 17 years ago. According to my friends at Datamonitor, gold cards are losing their exclusive status. The number of gold cards issued trebled between 1993 and 1996 and, at the last count, there were 2.5 million of them. A fifth of these come from the Co-op, which has taken post-modern irony to its logical conclusion by launching a gold card with street credibility. However, if you want real exclusivity, how about a new affinity card that has just been launched by the

National Association of Fish Fryers.

□ IT NEVER rains but it pours. Just when it was starting to go quiet at NatWest Markets, up pops the National Audit Office saying that the Ministry of Defence homes were sold last year for up to £139 million less than they were worth. And which merchant bankers were in charge of the sell-off. Yes, you guessed it.

With a bang

I AM glad to see that Fantastic Fireworks, the leading pyrotechnicians based, appropriately, at Rocket Park near Luton, Bedfordshire, are to represent Britain in next year's international fireworks competition at San Sebastian in Spain. Jon Culverhouse, the managing director, tells me that the company has "a wide and unusual array of friends and followers". Lord Brockton spoke at a training course, prior to being jailed for insurance fraud, and Fantastic put on a display for the Monkserrat Electricity Board, which was "hoping to celebrate its tenth anniversary last year with a different type of fireworks display". The eleventh anniversary celebration was even more dramatic.

JASON NISSÉ



"Good name for a band"

STOCK MARKET

CLARE STEWART

Profit-takers cash in as Dow leads shares down

ANOTHER Friday, another wobble. After a week of steady progress, recovering from the previous week's surprise drop, the market yesterday all but reversed its gains, closing just above the key 4,900 level.

The fall of nearly 111 points at its worst confirmed what market-makers had been warning of all week. Namely, that once Wall Street turned down, London would not be far behind.

The overnight falls registered by the Dow Jones industrial average, together with the Nikkei and Hang Seng, set the early tone, while an expected sell-off materialised as Wall Street reopened for business and fell back.

Concerns over a tightening of interest rates in the US were said to be fuelling volatility on Wall Street, while renewed concern over inflationary pressures unsettled bond markets in both the US and Europe.

Unlike last Friday when there was no single factor prompting the sharp drop, said Bob Semple at NatWest Securities, the fall yesterday did reflect more economic factors at work. "Investors are more nervous and tempted to take profits in sectors such as financials which have enjoyed a good run," he said. Looking to next week, "Markets could remain volatile," said Mr Semple, who does not dismiss the possibility of a 5-10 per cent correction as concerns over inflation remain.

By the close the FTSE 100 had recovered some of its poise to end 76.9 lower at 4,901.1, with 800 million shares traded, largely boosted by turn-over in BT.

Profit-taking among sectors such as banks, pharmaceuticals and oil, affected a number of heavyweight stocks and dragged the index lower.

HSBC dropped 73.1p to £21.04, while SmithKline Beecham was the worst performer among FTSE 100 stocks, closing down 60p to £10.74. Glaxo Wellcome lost 30.1p to £12.28, while among oil stocks, BP and Lando were marked down.

BT once again hogged the limelight as Sir Iain Vallance, BT's chairman, and Tim Price, president of MCI, shook hands on their new deal and as the full significance was becoming clear to the market, a massive 17.45 million BT shares changed hands as arbitrageurs and institutional



Tim Price, of MCI, and Sir Iain Vallance, of BT, up 23.1p

investors took stock of the new agreement.

The deal, widely welcomed as a good thing for BT, sent shares in the telecoms group 35p higher at one point, though by the close they were up 23.1p to 436p.

Among the relatively select list of FTSE 100 stocks making positive progress, BSKyB put on 9.1p to 441p after a buy

the stock, setting a fair value of 800p, as they say ICI is too expensive relative to its peers. ICI dropped back 31.2p to £10.08.

Among other blue chips Unilever closed 41.1p lower at £18.09 on reports of a broker trimming forecasts. Cadbury Schweppes was also lower, down 15.1p to £82.1p. Earlier in the week the shares had

Shares in Appleby Group fell 10.2p to 63.2p after the news that bid talks had been ended. Confirmation of an agreed bid by Enstone, unchanged at 34p, for Brunelcliffe Aggregates pushed Brunelcliffe 2.1p higher to 41.1p. First-half results helped Mallett, the art and antiques dealer, to climb 8p to 97.1p.

recommendation from analysts at Salomon Brothers, who have pencilled in a 480p target price.

Dixons was again in demand, up 2p to 432p, while the weaker pound helped some exporters to put on modest gains. BG, with talk of a share buyback doing the rounds, made further progress, rising 3.1p to 263.1p.

ICI was rattled after analysts at Kleinwort Benson reiterated their sell stance on

been hit by talk of weaker interest from US investors. Tobacco stocks dimmed after a new report on the effects of long-term smoking. Gallaher ended 11.1p lower at 288.1p, with Imperial Tobacco off 4p to 388p.

Second-liners had a better day, with the FTSE 250 ending 29.3 points lower at 4,658.7, while the small companies index was adrift just five points. RJR Mining rose 15p to

330p as it recovered ground lost earlier in the week, when it announced the closure of the Asfordby Colliery in Leicestershire.

Hopes of news on the much anticipated agreement with Johnson & Johnson helped Biocompatibles put on 40p to £10.95.

Storehouse made further progress, rising 8p to 231.1p, finding buyers while other retailers were left on the shelf.

Sears, for example, dropped back 2.1p to 62p, near to its low for the year, while Blacks Leisure ended 1p lower at 403.1p on further concern over the impact of Tesco's sale of cut price Adidas sportswear.

Save Group, the independent petrol retailer, motored further ahead with a 3p rise to 73p. Their rally in the past few days comes in the wake of Shell's plans to acquire the retail outlets of Gulf UK. Save's shares touched a high of 141.1p this year and slid back in June to a low of 51.1p.

After the strength of the power generators earlier in the week it was left to water stocks to mop up investors' money. Thames Water was 2p higher at 79.1p. Wessex Water rose 5.1p to 44.1p.

FirstBus added 2.1p to 205.1p on reports that it wants to add airports to its bus and train portfolio and is putting in bid for a 51 per cent stake in Bristol Airport.

Confirmation of a deal to supply its PowerVR chip to Matrox, the world's largest manufacturer of branded graphic cards used in PCs and particularly computer games, helped Videologic to jump 10.1p to 64.1p.

GILT-EDGED: After a quiet week gifts came under pressure in the wake of heavy futures trading and as dealers squared their positions ahead of the holiday weekend. The September series of the long gilt closed down £2.52 at £114.95, with volume sharply up as 114,000 contracts were traded.

Treasury 8 per cent 2000 ended down 9.5p to £102.17, while 8 per cent 1015 dropped 5.1p to £110.93.

NEW YORK: Shares were back on the rollercoaster, hammered for the second day running as the dollar resumed its slide and the technology sector raced south. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 112.19 down at 7,781.76.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 7,781.76 (-112.19)
S&P Composite 912.79 (-12.64)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 18,951.17 (-506.95)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 15,429.75 (-224.28)

Amsterdam:
EEX index 918.42 (-31.87)

Sydney:
AO 2,620.3 (-29.4)

Frankfurt:
DAX 4,086.01 (-107.64)

Singapore:
Brussels 1,945.44 (-1.13)

Brussels:
General 1,347.36 (-282.78)

Paris:
CAC-40 2,504.23 (-53.00)

Zurich:
SIX Gen 1,186.80 (-29.00)

London:
FT 30 3,143.1 (-40.5)

FTSE 100 4,901.1 (-76.9)

FTSE 250 4,658.7 (-29.3)

FTSE All-Share 2,312.1 (-30.3)

FTSE Non Financials 2,322.4 (-30.2)

FTSE 100 Index 125.94 (-2.64)

FTSE Govt Secs 96.36 (-0.3)

Rangdals 4,950

ESQ Volume 855,800

US 2,917.3 (-0.003)

Exchange Index 101.7 (-0.4)

Bank of England official rate 6.00%

ECU 1.4724

USD 1.575 Jul 13.390 Aug 19.010

JPY 156.4 Jul 15.000 Aug 19.010

RECENT ISSUES

Amnogastrya Cv 401.1 - 1

Blakes Clothing 79.1 - 1

Bristol & West PFI 108 - 1

Cammell Laird 136 - 1

EMI 115 - 1

EMF Ltd 117.1 - 1

GR Holdings 55 - 1

Galen Holdings 206 + 8

Helicon Publs 98 - 1

Ionica Group 355.1 - 11

Kingfisher Leisure 175.1 - 1

LEPCO 78.1 - 1

Landroon 94.1 - 1

Metrolife 201.1 - 3

Reabourne Merit 108.1 - 1

SBS Group 109.1 - 1

Severn Trent 53.1 - 1

Stanton Warrins 20.1 - 1

Thorn 20.1 - 1

Viglen Technology 63.1 - 1

MAJOR CHANGES

RISER:
BT 438p (+23.1p)

RJB 330p (+15.1p)

Shawell Int 351p (+11.1p)

Vespera 785p (+19.1p)

FALLS:
Westpac 373p (-11.1p)

Amnogastrya Cv 401.1 (-1.1p)

Blakes Clothing 79.1 (-1.1p)

Bristol & West PFI 108 (-1.1p)

Cammell Laird 136 (-1.1p)

EMI 115 (-1.1p)

EMF Ltd 117.1 (-1.1p)

GR Holdings 55 (-1.1p)

Galen Holdings 206 (-8.1p)

Helicon Publs 98 (-1.1p)

Ionica Group 355.1 (-11.1p)

Kingfisher Leisure 175.1 (-1.1p)

LEPCO 78.1 (-1.1p)

Landroon 94.1 (-1.1p)

Metrolife 201.1 (-3.1p)

Reabourne Merit 108.1 (-1.1p)

SBS Group 109.1 (-1.1p)

Severn Trent 53.1 (-1.1p)

Stanton Warrins 20.1 (-1.1p)

Thorn 20.1 (-1.1p)

Viglen Technology 63.1 (-1.1p)

An uneasy truce

FOR two companies that proclaim themselves global leaders in the communications business, British Telecom and MCI have remarkably little in common. BT has secured a welcome reduction in the price it is paying for MCI after six weeks when neither side would clarify whether their agreement even permitted renegotiation of the deal. The suggestion, repeatedly made in New York that MCI had a rock-solid agreement, was clearly untrue, as it always seemed.

The chronology of their peace deal was one of many issues that the parties refused to clarify yesterday. BT's Sir Peter Bonfield refused to explain how they had arrived at the new price which offers MCI shareholders more cash but fewer shares — a total reduction of perhaps 20 per cent. Instead, BT

and MCI contented themselves with trumpeting the strategic rationale of the deal set out last November.

It is hard to believe in the united front that BT and MCI put up against the suggestion that their relationship had been damaged by BT's belated discovery of the scale of its partner's losses in US local telephone markets. The message was that their partnership has emerged stronger through this difficult patch. No management changes are planned, leaving MCI's managers in many key positions.

But for many BT insiders, as well as the world outside, the company was badly misled by MCI. It is hard to imagine a more inauspicious start to this deal. The danger is that the fractures recently exposed will appear to damage the business again.

Save Group

SHARES in Save Group have had their best week since Esso took its Price Watch campaign national at the start of last year. Britain's largest independent petrol retailer ended the week at 73p, almost 40 per cent higher than on Monday morning.

The sudden burst of enthusiasm stems from bid hopes, prompted by Shell's prospective £80 million purchase of Gulf Oil's chain of 450 petrol stations. Shell is unlikely to be allowed to follow this by swallowing Save and its 614 outlets.

Shell, Esso and BP already share about 60 per cent of the market. More likely buyers of Save are the other oil groups who have excess refining capacity and risk losing their distribution network: Texaco, Elf, Fina, Murco and Conoco. Texaco,

with 780 outlets and keen to expand, is perhaps the favourite, partly because the Gulf deal will add to its capacity difficulties.

Save's share of sales has declined sharply, as its chairman, James Frost, has deliberately sacrificed volume in a largely successful attempt to protect margins. A better success to its true worth is still

its market share before the price war of a per cent, or roughly twice the size of the Gulf business.

Even after this week's rise, Save is still valued at under £70 million, less than half the £160 million that this analysis justifies. With Mr Frost making no secret of his willingness to sell, Save's shares look a good punt.

PRICE WATCHED

Capital Corp

GAMING is supposed to be one of the most highly regulated industries in the country. Yet the owner of two of the most prominent casinos in London has been shown to have been a badly run shambles. Those running Capital Corporation have failed to get to grips with the gaming business, the food and drink procurement, the finances of the company and, at times, their duties as directors.

As this has emerged into the open — how has Capital's board reacted? By taking legal action against a former director and two senior employees, attacking their credibility and betting that their pockets will not be as deep as the company's, effectively gagging them.

Of course it does not matter if Capital's accusations are true, as you cannot sue for libel over allegations in print. But it might put doubts in the minds of shareholders who might think that the

issues brought to light by a former finance director of the Royal Bank of Scotland are worthy of serious investigation.

One can only wonder what the Gaming board thinks of all these goings-on. It is currently reviewing the situation and is not investigating. Maybe the allegations and Capital's reactions will tempt the Board into action, a move that can only be detrimental to the business and market value of Capital.

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control of the Fyne field in the North Sea.

Monument's balance sheet, at first glance, looks frightening. Net debts of £197 million tower above shareholders' funds of £143 million, producing a conventional gearing of 137 per cent. The capital base, however, has been shrunk by a merger reserve of £76.4 million and £33 million of one-off payouts to shareholders last year.

Brokers expect net profits of £20 million-£22 million for the full year, which puts the shares on a multiple of 27 times earnings. The key will be how Monument uses the cash flow from Liverpool Bay.

Monument is talking to the Turkmenistan Government about a large project it hopes to finance out of cash flow and debt. This looks an interesting opportunity. In the meantime, the shares are supported by the perennial bid rumours.

Like many oil companies Monument sees the third world as its best hope of making commercial discoveries, although it recently took the precaution of swapping Argentinian interests for full

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MOVERS OF THE WEEK

Current price	Week's change	Notes
BT	+5.4%	MCI merger news
HSBC	-2.104%	profit taking
PowerGen	+7.68%	sector strengths
Unilever	-2.37%	bid hopes
West Group	+2.84%	strong interim results
Bossey & Naylor	+3.7%	takeover speculation
ICI	-10.08%	analyst's comment
National Power	+5.38%	sector strengths
BG	+2.63%	share buyback hopes

COMMODITIES

LIFFE	ICE/CLOR (London 800000)	CRUDE OIL \$/barrel FOB
Dec	119.58	119.58
Jan	119.58	119.58
Feb	119.58	119.58
Mar	119.58	119.58
Apr	119.58	119.58
May	119.58	119.58
Jun	119.58	119.58
Jul	119.58	119.58
Aug	119.58	119.58
Sep	119.58	119.58
Oct	119.58	119.58
Nov	119.58	119.58
Dec	119.58	119.58

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series	Oct	Jan	Apr	Jul	Nov
ABO Dec	119.58	119.58	119.58	119.58	119.58
ABO Jan	119.58	119.58	119.58	119.58	119.58
ABO Apr	119.58	119.58	119.58	119.58	119.58
ABO Jul	119.58	119.58	119.58	119.58	119.58
ABO Nov	119.58	119.58	119.58	119.58	119.58

LIFFE FUTURES

Series	Oct	Jan	Apr	Jul	Nov
ABO Dec	119.58	119.58	119.58	119.58	119.58
ABO Jan	119.58	119.58	119.58	119.58	119.58
ABO Apr	119.58	119.58	119.58	119.58	119.58
ABO Jul	119.58	119.58	119.58	119.58	119.58
ABO Nov	119.58	119.58	119.58	119.58	119.58

LIFFE METAL EXCHANGE

Series	Oct	Jan	Apr	Jul	Nov
ABO Dec	119.58	119.58	119.58	119.58	119.58
ABO Jan	119.58	119.58	119.58	119.58	119.58
ABO Apr	119.58	119.58	119.58	119.58	119.58
ABO Jul	119.58	119.58	119.58	119.58	119.58
ABO Nov	119.58	119.58	119.58	119.58	119.58

LIFFE INDEX

Series	Oct	Jan	Apr
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FIGHTING BACK 39

Flat-owners to benefit from new tribunals

WEEKEND MONEY

PERSONAL TOUCH 35

Paying through the nose for cosmetic surgery

THE TIMES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Investors left in the dark

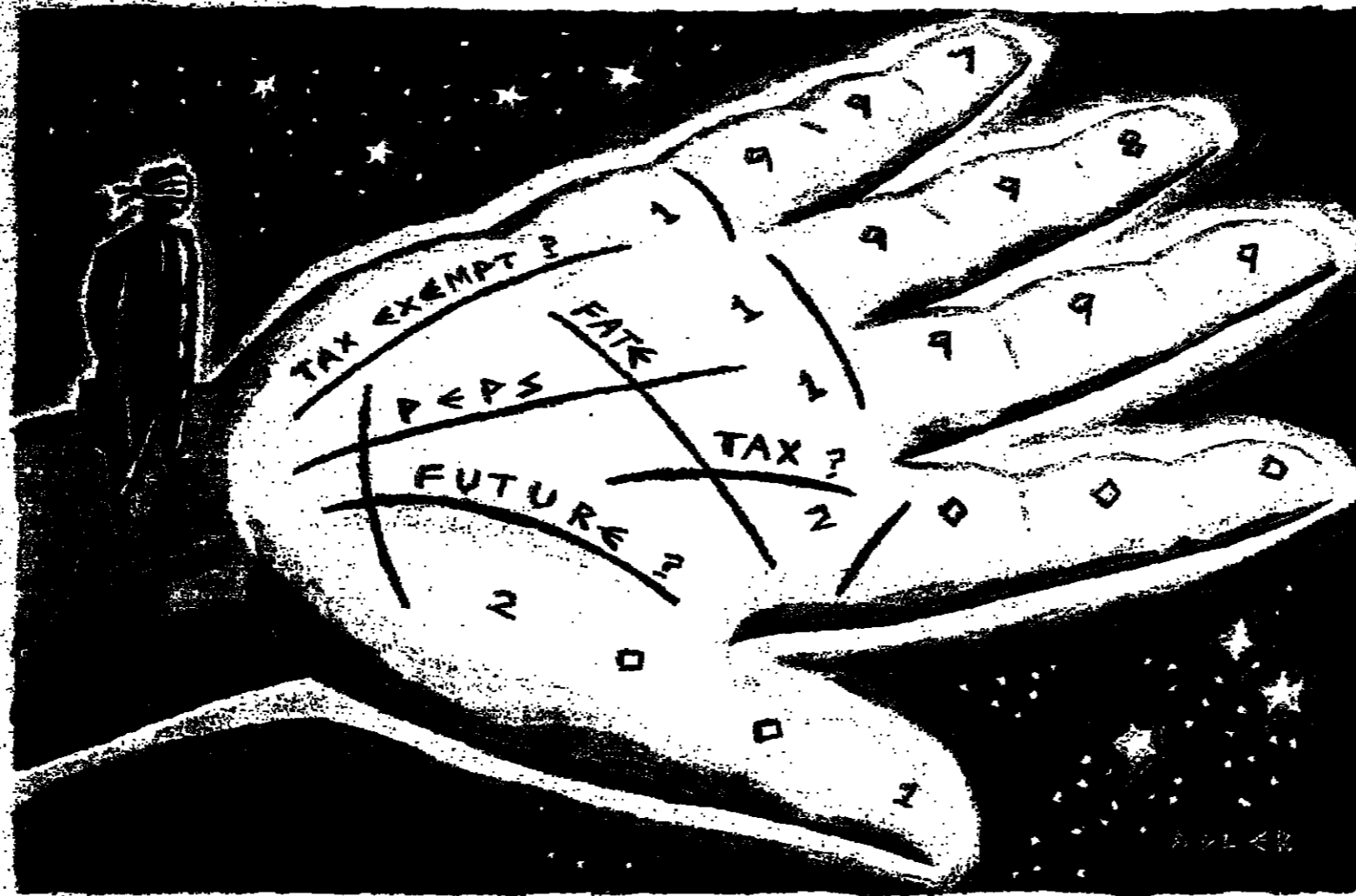
Anne Ashworth and John Givens on growing fears over the future of savings schemes

Buzzed and rested, the Chancellor will return from his summer holidays only to regain his normal pectoral at the sight of the large bundle of mail from investors and fund managers seeking to know more about the fate of the two most popular savings schemes of the era, the personal equity plan (Pep) and the tax-exempt special savings account (Tessa).

Individuals saving in Peps and Tessas for their retirement, or to repay mortgages, believe that the Government is providing too little information on how the schemes will be replaced in 1999 by Labour's scheme to encourage long-term thrift, the individual saving account (Isa). This new account will invest in both cash and shares.

The Chancellor will also learn of other concerns. Some advisers are now giving warning that the debut of the Isa threatens to be the first mis-selling scandal of the new millennium. Don Clark of Pep Direct, the specialist Pep adviser, has written to Gordon Brown to point out that the change in the law that introduced personal pensions gave unscrupulous salesmen the opportunity to encourage individuals to change their arrangements. The launch of the Isa could provide another such sales bonanza.

Others would like Mr Brown to spill the beans on how the Isa tax breaks will compare with those given on pensions. Tom King of Standard Life, the insurance group, said: "Following the abolition of the dividend tax credit, the tax breaks on pensions have now been reduced in value. Will the Chancellor give more generous tax



reliefs on Isas, making pensions less worthwhile?

The income tax benefits of the Pep will disappear in April 1999. Holders will no longer be entitled to reclaim the dividend tax credit (the tax deducted from share dividends before they are paid out). Since their launch in 1987, Peps have been free of both income tax and capital gains tax. It seems likely that Tessas will simultaneously shed their tax advantages, although this was not made entirely clear by the Chancellor in his Budget speech last month.

A consultation document on the savings review is due in the autumn but no announce-

ment on the new rules is expected until next spring.

Investors who have poured some £29 billion into Peps over the past decade do not know whether they will be permitted to continue to store their investments in Peps once the tax relief has disappeared. Even before the value of the tax relief is taken into account, it has often been cheaper to buy a Pep rather than a similar unit trust.

Many believe that they will not be able to transfer their total accumulated Pep holdings into Isas. The Chancellor intends that this new scheme should appeal to those on low incomes. This suggests that there will be a relatively low

annual investment limit. Jason Hollands of BEST Investment suspects that Isas will be more restrictive than Peps, with a cap on the total levels invested, a minimum holding period and a tighter definition of the types of shares that can be bought.

The Inland Revenue can shed no light on any of this. A spokesman said: "We know nothing more than what was announced in the Budget, and until we do, we cannot say what form the individual investment accounts will take and what the effect will be on Peps and Tessas."

The Personal Investment Authority (PIA), the financial

services watchdog, has reacted to the Chancellor's plans by warning brokers and investment houses that they should not encourage the sale of Peps with "buy now while stocks last" tactics and that they should warn potential investors that Peps might not exist in two years' time.

Don Clark advised investors not to panic. He said: "The work involved for investment houses to transfer

all the cash out of Peps and into other schemes would be horrendous. This alone would prevent any plans to totally abolish the Pep."

The Halifax says it will be business as usual until something happens which invalidates Pep mortgages. A spokeswoman said: "Even if Peps are abolished altogether we expect that investors will be able to transfer the funds from Peps into Isas."

All-share index outshines M&G underachievers

With doubt hanging over the long-term future of Peps it is now more important than ever for investors to monitor the performance of their Pep fund managers.

Paradoxically, the rise in the stock market makes this task more difficult, because when share prices are going up even mediocre managers can make some money. But they may still be failing to match the rise in the market, or provide reasonable value for their customers.

A good way to measure is to compare your Pep against a benchmark such as the FTSE all-share index. BEST Investment, the Pep specialist, has compiled a list of 148 Peps that have failed to beat this index over the past three years. It has put leading Pep provider M&G in the doghouse after nine of the company's UK equity Peps featured in the list. Eight of these funds have underperformed the index in each of the three years since July 1994. Murray Johnstone also performed badly with five funds in the list.

Investors who put £100 into M&G's Capital, Compound Growth, Dividend, Equity Income, Midland & General, Recovery, Second Companies and UK Smaller Companies Peps three years ago have got between £22 and £68 less than the £170 they would have got from simply tracking the FTSE all-share index. John Spiers,

managing director of BEST Investment, is urging his clients to consider switching from M&G to other Pep providers such as Perpetual, Garmore, Credit Suisse and Fidelity.

He says M&G's problems are threefold. The loss of successful managers at the end of the 1980s has been compounded by the company's fixation with value investing. This approach favours medium-sized manufacturers who aim to pay ever-increasing amounts in dividends. Unfortunately, these are exactly the kind of enterprises which have suffered in the 1990s. Although the company is trying to put things right, he believes new management and an investment review can lead only to short-term instability.

He said: "The best you can say about M&G is that the future is uncertain. The worst is that the underperformance of the last three years will continue."

Vivien Bazalgette, M&G's head of investment, urges investors to stick with their funds. The strong pound has recently showed signs of weakening. He predicts that when it falls, it will boost the prospects for small and mid-capitalisation stocks. "Although we would much prefer to be superperforming, the key thing is that the outlook is very favourable."

In the future, M&G will diversify into growth funds.

GAVIN LUMSDEN

WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth

A&L compensation admission

The Alliance & Leicester has admitted that it may have to pay compensation to shareholders who missed out on the opportunity of putting their windfall shares into a Pep through no fault of their own.

A small proportion of A&L members were notified of their eligibility for shares only after the former building society floated on the stock market on April 21. Many complained that this prevented them from transferring their shares into the tax-free shelter of a Pep.

Under Inland Revenue rules, windfall investors have 42 days

from the date they are allocated their shares to put them into a Pep. These shares do not count towards an individual's Pep allowance and can go on top of any existing Pep investment, even if a person holds the maximum £6,000 in a general Pep or £3,000 in a single-company Pep.

The original deadline for the A&L shareholders, which was the first building society to convert, was June 1. In May the society-turned-bank started talks with the Revenue to see if its group of late shareholders could have 42 days from the day they received the shares

rather than the date of flotation. These discussions heated up two weeks ago when it was revealed that the Revenue had confirmed that up to 10,000 Woolwich members, who had not received share certificates, could do this. This was because Woolwich had chosen its date of allocation to match the date on the certificate.

On the same day the Halifax was also told that its members, who had been told of their eligibility after its flotation, also had 42 days from the date of their notification. This situation mirrored the A&L's.

This week the Alliance &

Leicester finally got its confirmation from the Revenue. Unfortunately, the time that has passed since the flotation means many shareholders may still be ruled out.

A spokeswoman said the company had done everything to seek clarification and would write to the shareholders next week. This will be particularly galling for some investors because the Revenue has previously ruled that Pep applications can initially be made without a share certificate in order to meet the deadline.

GAVIN LUMSDEN

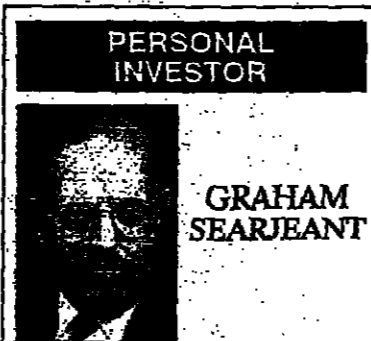
Fear fuels a seasonal storm

Fearful Fridays and Mogadon Mondays cannot go on for long. People learn and anticipate. On Wall Street, traders took precautions on Thursday against the threat of another bad Friday, bringing losses forward. And the big money investors will be back at their desks within a fortnight, sorting out strategies for autumn.

At least some of the volatility of recent weeks has been because of lack of real trade. Market insiders have been playing among themselves, accounting for much of the business done. Prices tend to flick up and down day to day in illiquid markets. In this climate, London market-makers sensibly battened down the hatches at the expense of investors yesterday, knowing that London would be shut on Monday, when other markets are open.

These sharp movements intensify fears of a really big 1987-style break in prices. To a much lesser extent, they increase the risk. So far, there has been more worry than substance. By way of comparison, the Dow Jones index fell about 10 per cent around March without such drama. It fell because the US Federal Reserve Board raised short-term interest rates, exciting immediate speculation that there could be more to come. In the event, the Fed has not moved since. It confirmed this week that it still has no reason to move.

In the UK, interest rates have gone up four times. But they have risen only 1 per cent. Now the Bank of England has called a halt, preferably for at least three months, at a level lower than most City economists were bargaining for. Ger-



PERSONAL INVESTOR

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

many's Bundesbank does not want to raise rates either. It hates the mark's weakness but has so far managed to talk up the currency by raising the possibility of action, now reinforced by saying it will fix its market rate weekly. The foreign exchanges have calmed down. Speculators are likely to call the Bundesbank's bluff again at some time. Today, turmoil is confined to South-East Asia.

This very lack of substance in part explains the fears that have clearly built up over shares prices. At the start of 1997, most long-term analysts thought prices were a touch ahead of profit growth in Britain and pretty high relative to profits in America. This was not going to be much of a year for shares. Continuing low interest rates in America and international buying of London blue chips have belied that, sending prices up about a fifth.

Cautious investors who missed out have used price setbacks to buy, the classic bull market psychology. But

many are looking over their shoulders, feeling that it is too good to last. In America, the Fed stood back because the economy is steady. As a series of disappointing announcements from big companies has shown, that means profits are not growing fast enough to justify their shares trading at an all-market average of 25 times earnings. In the UK, ratings are generally lower and dividends comfortably higher, but sterling's strength has been cutting analysts' profit forecasts month by month.

If this fear outlasts an agitated August, then a bear market psychology could take over. Instead of seeing setbacks as buying opportunities, investors then use price recoveries as an opportunity to sell and recoup any paper losses made since the last peak.

Long-term investors can usually afford to ride through stock market corrections and short bear markets without trying to be too clever. There are no economic threats to justify any market setback worse than that. Fund managers too are more relaxed than when their computer programs all sold Wall Street at the same time in 1987. Portfolios can be hedged more effectively in derivatives markets that have grown so rapidly in the past ten years.

Others do not have this luxury, because they have to sell investments sometime soon to take a pension, spend on a house or pay college fees. In future, many more will have to make these tricky decisions. When markets are nervous, they should not wait for prices to bounce back to new peaks.

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Legal & General Investment Management

A QUESTION OF MONEY

Tax change acts as catalyst for rise of the Fid

Watch out — there's a new acronym about. Meet the Fid, the foreign income dividend, brought to prominence by the Budget change to the dividend tax credit. Gordon Brown's most sweeping tax measure.

Formerly pension funds and other tax-exempt investors, such as personal equity plan (Pep) holders and charities, were entitled to reclaim the 20 per cent dividend tax credit. When a company distributes a dividend, it deducts advance corporation tax at a rate of 20 per cent. This ACT becomes the dividend tax credit.

The Chancellor put an end to this concession, with immediate effect for pension funds and from 1999 for Pep holders. Charities will also be deprived of the right to claim the dividend tax credit in 1999 but they will be compensated for this until the 2003-04 tax year. But Pep holders and charities are already starting to feel the pinch because many larger companies are now deciding to pay their dividends in a different way.

Since pension funds are the biggest investors in the UK stock market, companies were happy to oblige them by paying dividends out of their UK earnings. Now that pension funds cannot reclaim the tax, many big companies with large overseas earnings are opting to pay their dividends from such income because these payments escape UK tax (the Treasury takes the view that overseas earnings have already been taxed in the

country where they are earned).

Q Which companies are choosing to pay a Fid?

A Only large companies, those with high overseas earnings, are in a position to do this. Unfortunately, it is these companies that are favoured by Pep investors. BAT, Glaxo Wellcome, Tate & Lyle, BTR and Shell have paid Fids. After the tax change, others have joined their ranks, including the Prudential and EMI.

Q What difference will this make to funds which benefit from tax relief such as charities and Peps?

A When companies distribute a dividend, they pay ACT. However, as no ACT is payable on a Fid, charities, Peps, or non-taxpayers cannot reclaim the tax.

Q How much do investors stand to lose?

A If a company declared a normal dividend of 12.2p per share, then the non-taxpayers, Peps and charities could claim back 20 per cent — a dividend of 15.2p. This additional amount would not be payable if the 12.2p dividend was paid via a Fid. Investors must hope that the companies opting to pay a Fid will pay increased dividends to make up the difference.

CAROLINE MERRELL

The self-defeating rate rise

Karen Zagor says banks do no one any favours by offering a raw deal to savers on interest



Ann and Peter Flinders rely on extra interest to supplement their pensions when it comes to holidays

Another week, another mortgage rate rise. The scenario is becoming far too familiar for savers who, in recent months, have seen their mortgage payments rise faster than the returns on their savings accounts.

The latest round of mortgage rate rises raises questions about whether Britain's banks are doing enough to reward savers and whether the gap between borrowing and savings rates is widening. By and large bank savings rates, in comparison with the real rate of interest, are paltry. Real interest rates — which are base rates minus inflation — now stand at about 4.3 per cent. This compares with 3.1 per cent in the US and about 1.5 per cent in Germany.

Jan Harwood, head of strategy and economics at Dresner Kleinwort Benson, says: "UK rates are relatively high when compared with Europe and the US. The argument is that they need to be high because inflationary pressures are perceived to be high and our inflation record is worse than other countries'. Clearly the UK economy is stronger."

"Consumer spending is very strong and this week's retail sales showed the strongest levels in many years. But we don't believe that consumers are as gung-ho as they were in the 1980s."

Higher real interest rates are intended to dampen spending by discouraging borrowing. Ultimately, they should keep a lid on inflation. But they should also encourage savings and, so far, savings rates are not rising fast enough for that to happen.

It is the banks and some of the former building societies that have been particularly remiss in rewarding savers. The Halifax, which as a building society could be relied upon to offer some of the most competitive rates on the market, is no longer setting the pace. In Moneyfacts

weekly charts of the best savings rates available — measuring instant access and postal accounts, notice accounts and bonds, monthly income accounts, interest-paying cheque accounts, fixed-rate accounts and Tassas — the Halifax appears in only two charts. Its interest-paying cheque account is competitive, with rates starting at 4.35 per cent, but the minimum deposit is £5,000.

The Halifax's fixed-rate account is also competitive, but its rates are far from the best available. For one year, with a minimum deposit of £2,000, the Halifax will pay 6.9 per cent.

On a similar product, the Portman pays 7.25 per cent with a minimum of £1,000. Norwich & Peterborough Building Society pays 7.2 per cent on a minimum of £5,000 and the Woolwich pays 7 per cent on a minimum of £500.

The Halifax has said it will increase its savings rates in September. Meanwhile, its standard variable mortgage rate rose to 8.45 per cent from 8.2 per cent on August 15.

One reason for the Halifax's absence on the Moneyfacts savings

charts is that it does not have postal operations. When compared with other branch-based accounts, the Halifax's instant access account is competitive, paying 3.9 per cent on a balance of £5,000.

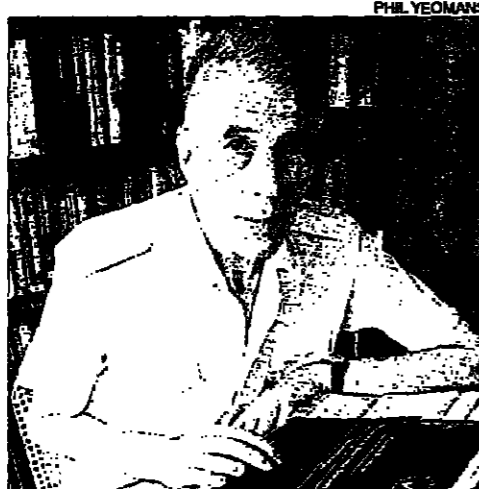
This is the same as the rate offered by Nationwide. But it is significantly lower than the 6.75 per cent offered by the Cheltenham & Gloucester on deposits starting at £1,000 through its telephone-based instant transfer account.

Clydesdale Bank is paying 6.5 per cent on balances as low as £25, but only four free withdrawals from the account are allowed each year, after which there is a 50p charge for each withdrawal.

With this week's news of another rise in consumer spending, there is real concern that base rates may rise again before long, making fixed-income products more of a risk for consumers. This has not, however, deterred Ann and Peter Flinders from taking out a one-year fixed-interest bond with Portman Building Society.

"We realise that interest rates could rise again, so my wife and I tend to hedge our bets rather than putting all the capital available into one bond. That way we will have money at hand in case there is another rise in rates," said Mr Flinders. "The Portman tends to bring out new bonds when there is a change in market forces; and when the rate rose to 7.25 per cent we decided it was a good time to buy," he added.

The Flinderses, who are both retired, invest mainly for income. Mr Flinders says: "We both have pensions, which are not enough to live on, so the additional interest from investment enables us to take better holidays than we would otherwise be able to afford."



Geoffrey Waldren aims to form an action group

Woolwich blunders could be costly

Many Woolwich shareholders are still waiting for their shares, despite the society's flotation having taken place more than six weeks ago. In the intervening period the share price has fallen by nearly 18 per cent.

The administrative mistakes seem to be affecting various categories of shareholders. Details of customers with Tessa accounts have gone astray, while the details of some eligible shareholders seem to have disappeared altogether.

The Woolwich is admitting that at least 10,000 of its 27 million shareholders are affected. The actual number affected by the blunders may be considerably greater.

The delays in sending out share documentation and certificates have so enraged the son of one 90-year-old shareholder that he is trying to set up a group with the intention of bringing legal action against the Woolwich.

Geoffrey Waldren, from Poole, Dorset, has consulted the London solicitors Max Briel, Greene about the possibility of taking action against the bank. Mr Waldren is particularly interested in hearing from Woolwich shareholders entitled to shares but allocated none, or where a material number were underallocated.

He also wants to hear from those Woolwich shareholders who intended to sell their shares at the earliest opportunity. The delays in sending out his father's certificates could have cost around £600 — the difference between the price on the first day and the price he was actually able to sell at.

Mr Waldren believes that an action group would only be viable if around 1,000 people were willing to participate. He said: "What appears to have happened is that the programme which selected qualifying members failed to pick up swathes of members, and in other cases all the qualifying accounts of a member who was offered an

allocation. These errors meant that thousands of people received no allocation letters."

"Branches and several helpline or information lines were only allowed to take details from members, who were told that it would be three weeks before they got an answer. Our view that the Woolwich could be liable to consequential damages has its focus on the responsibilities of directors prior to vesting day."

Geoffrey Waldren, 6 Northmore Drive, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset, BH12 4DU. Tel: 01202 382032

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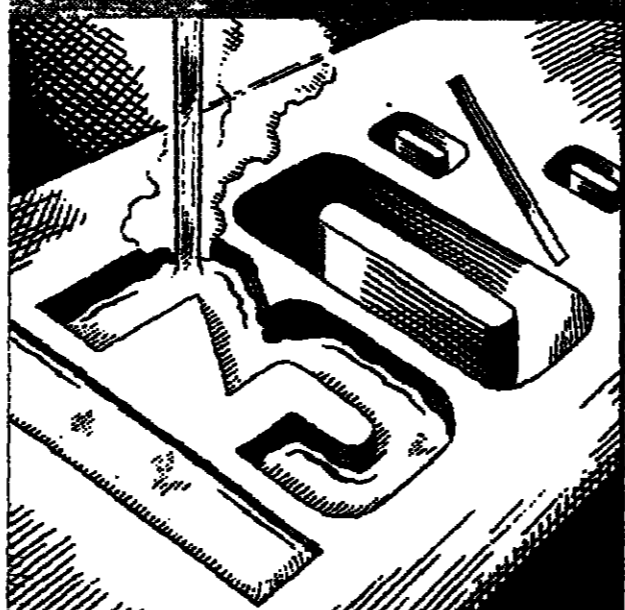
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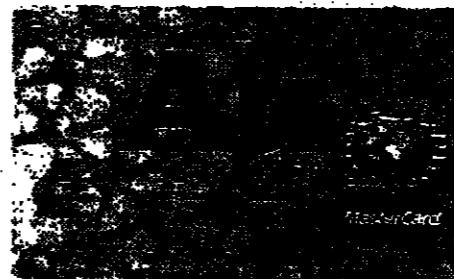
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Hopelessly devoted to the Halifax

The Halifax has a strange hold over its customers, whose devotion has seemingly been strengthened by their transformation from members to shareholders. Halifaxers just can't break away, despite rising mortgage rates and saver returns that seldom star in best buy tables.

Their loyalty is more than mere inertia, or a liking for the convenience of an extensive branch network. The little Xtra we hear so much about is obviously addictive.

Some borrowers have left to take advantage of the numerous discounted offers at the mutuals. But surprising numbers seem happy to pay the new higher mortgage rate.

Savers are equally steadfast. Most of those who sold their shares returned the cash to Halifax accounts. Since flotation, savings balances have actually increased by £3.6 billion, despite greater competition in



ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance Editor

this market. Only 30 per cent of the 7.6 million windfall beneficiaries have disposed of their holdings, leaving a share register bristling with the faithful.

The Halifax has now mentioned the possibility of yet more payouts. If the bank cannot find a suitable acquisition, it may use some of its £3.5 billion spare cash to pay a special dividend.

Filled with a warm glow, Halifaxers may be now even less likely to dispose of their stakes, or to

take their savings and mortgage custom elsewhere. For their own good, they should become a little more hard-headed. Halifax shares are worth holding for the excitement ahead. But for a better mortgage or savings deal, try a mutual.

Inaction stations

THE Government is eager to encourage us to become long-term savers. However, it is doing little to make the task easier. The dividend tax changes

in the Budget have made pensions rather less attractive. Meanwhile, Pep and Tessa holders have no idea exactly how, in 1999, the Chancellor proposes to replace these schemes with his own brainchild, the Isa.

Most agree that individuals should make the best of Pep and Tessa tax breaks while they last. But when you are investing for the next century, it is reassuring to know something of what the rules will be two years hence.

In this uncertainty it would be all too easy to use the lack of information as an excuse to do nothing. Another justification for inertia is the miserable performance of many Peps where the charges outweigh the tax benefits.

But inaction is the riskiest option of all. The changes to the dividend tax credit could mean that pensions could be reduced by as much as 15 per cent. You have been warned.

Truly personal banking

Borrowers pay through the nose with loans for cosmetic surgery, says Caroline Merrell

The quest for the perfect face and body has led to a big increase in applications for loans to pay for plastic surgery. A recent survey by the Yorkshire Bank showed that requests for cash loans made to banks have included applications for money to have cosmetic surgery such as breast enhancement, liposuction and face remodelling.

Chris Herbert, head of customer service for Yorkshire Bank, said: "While house renovations and new cars are still high on the wanted list, more personal desires such as renovations to flagging good looks and a need to create a new you now regularly feature among the loan applications throughout our branch network."

"We expect to see more and more of our clients choosing to spread the payment for anything from the body beautiful to a lifetime's ambition to fly."

The costs of cosmetic surgery start at around £2,000 for liposuction and will rise to around £12,000 for a facelift carried out by a top American surgeon. A typical breast enhancement operation will set you back somewhere between £4,000 and £5,000.

Anyone who does opt for a personal loan to pay for

plastic surgery will end up paying thousands of pounds of interest. Apart from credit card debt, unsecured loans are the most expensive way of borrowing. The less the amount to be borrowed, the higher the interest rate will be. The interest will be charged at a fixed rate throughout the period of the loan.

For instance, Barclays will charge an interest rate of 20.9 per cent on loans of between £500 and £2,999, while a £5,000 loan will attract an interest rate of 15.9 per cent. The monthly repayments on the loan spread over five years would be £119, bringing the total repayments to £7,140.

Anyone who does take out a personal loan will be given the option of insurance cover which will pay off the loan in the event of redundancy or sickness. This costs an additional £24 per month.

NatWest currently has a special offer on its personal loans. Sums of between £500 and £2,000 can be borrowed at an interest rate of 16.9 per cent. Amounts between £2,000 and £4,000 will cost

14.9 per cent, £4,100 to £7,000 will carry a rate of 13.9 per cent and loans of more than that amount carry an interest rate of 11.9 per cent. A £5,000 loan with NatWest would cost £113.99 month without insurance, and £139 per month with insurance. The total cost of the loan would be £6,780 without insurance, or £8,377 with insurance.

Direct Line has among the lowest unsecured loan rates available. It offers rates of between 11.8 per cent and 17.9 per cent on loans of between £1,999 and £15,000.

Anyone who does take out a personal loan should read the small print carefully. Some companies, such as TSB and Sainsbury's Bank, will charge a redemption penalty if the loan is paid off early. Some will charge higher rates if the insurance is not arranged, while others will not offer insurance at all.

The actual insurance policy taken out should also be checked thoroughly. For example, policies will not cover pregnancy or related compli-

cations. If you are sacked, you may not be covered. If you are made redundant, often the cover will not begin immediately. It will also not pay for more than one year's repayments.

You are not automatically covered if you are self-employed and then become bankrupt, and you may not be covered if you are on contract and your contract is simply not renewed.

AA Insurance, Alliance & Leicester, First Direct, Halifax and TSB offer specific loans aimed at those who

wish to buy cars. For example, loans of between £1,000 and £15,000 will cost between 12.7 per cent and 16.7 per cent from AA Insurance. Non-members will be charged a higher amount. Halifax will charge 15.9 per cent for loans for cars, regardless of the amount borrowed.

Credit scoring is fairly stringent on personal loans. Loans of more than £15,000 are unusual, which would be a disappointment for one of Yorkshire Bank's customers who wanted £20,000 to improve the front drive of his home. Asked why it would cost so much, the customer admitted that only £2,000 of the loan was for the new drive and the rest was for a Porsche to put on it.



The looks that helped to make Pamela Anderson famous can be yours — at a price

Rock unlocks savers' cage

THE 900,000 savers and borrowers with the Northern Rock Building Society are now completely free to move their savings if they wish. The final qualifying date for conversion was yesterday, which means that savers could now close their accounts but still benefit from the 500 free shares.

At the beginning of September, the society plans to send qualifying members full details of the share allocation, which comprises a flat distribution of 500 shares. Those who are both savers and borrowers will benefit from two lots of 500 shares.

Northern Rock aims to float on October 3. Unlike the other converting building societies, the Northern Rock will not be offering its

members a personal equity plan (Pep), nor has it committed itself to offering members a free dealing service.

A spokesman said: "We will be offering a dealing service, but we have not yet announced the terms."

Six months ago, the Northern Rock's advisers estimated that shares in the society would be worth between 200p and 250p. This would produce a windfall of between £1,300 and £1,475.

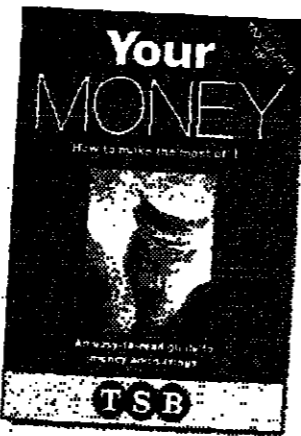
However, since then, the shares of many of the financial companies have rocketed ahead. This could mean that Northern Rock savers and borrowers will be able to look forward to even larger payouts.

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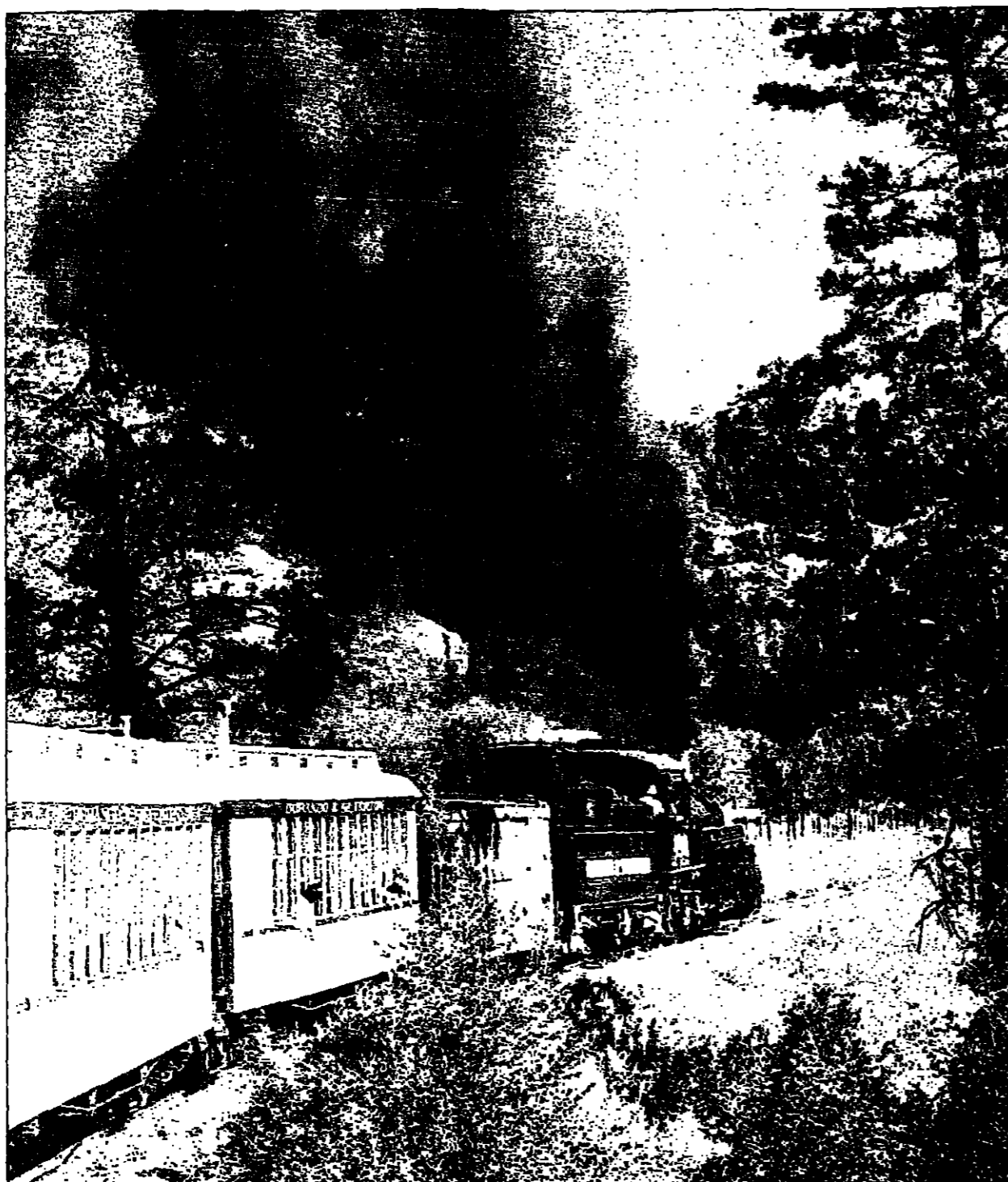
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Many investment trusts were established in the mid-Victorian era to invest in the shares of American railway companies

A safer way to travel into 'share' territory

Jill Insley looks at how investors who are wary of buying equities can enjoy at least some rewards



Investing in shares has proved to be one of the most successful ways of making money. Over longer periods of time, shares have consistently outperformed government bonds and building society accounts.

But for many investors, the idea of putting money in shares is too risky. Most do not have the time or inclination to watch for the warning signals that share prices are about to fall.

Investment trusts provide an answer for those who do not want the worry of investing directly in the stock market but want to enjoy the potential returns. Trusts give easy and relatively cheap access to professional fund management, and risk is reduced by pooling money with other investors to buy a wider range of shares.

An investment trust is a company that invests in the shares of other companies. Many were established in the mid-Victorian era to invest in shares of the new American railway companies.

Like any other type of company, it is split into a fixed number of shares that can be bought and sold on the Stock Exchange. But rather than manufacturing goods or providing services, an investment trust is designed to produce capital growth, income, or sometimes both from its investment portfolio.

The fact that an investment trust is itself a company often leads to a disparity between the price at which its shares sell and the value of its investment portfolio. If the trust's shares are in great demand, their price

can rise above the value of the investment portfolio. The shares are then described as being at a premium to the net asset value of the trust.

Martin Mullany, of Brooks Macdonald Gayer, the London independent financial adviser, says that buying trust shares at a premium is an expensive way to invest. "Unless you really like the trust and the way it is managed, it is probably better to invest in a unit trust which

The rules allow a second way for investors to buy into more shares than their money may warrant.

These professional investors shake the trust's managers into some action to narrow the discount. The appearance of arbitrageurs on the share register of the Fleming Far Eastern Investment Trust recently

spurred Flemings into proposing reconstruction plans to unlock some of the value of the trust's investment portfolio. The move caused an immediate rise in the share price and reduced the discount from 12 per cent to just over 8 per cent.

Sometimes arbitrageurs buy up and close down a trust to realise the value of its underlying investments. Either way, the private investor can benefit.

The rules governing investment trusts provide a second way for investors to buy into more shares than their money may warrant. Trusts can borrow against their assets, a pro-

cess known as gearing. This enables the trust manager to buy more shares for his investment portfolio, thus boosting the value of the investor's holding.

But gearing can backfire if interest rates rise or the stock market falls. The trust manager can end up paying more for the loan than he is earning on the investments bought with the borrowed money.

The purchase and management charges for investment trusts tend to be the lowest in the market for professionally managed investments. The up-front charges comprise the stockbroker's commission (typically 1.5 per cent to 1.8 per cent) and stamp duty of 0.5 per cent. Annual management charges are often less than 1 per cent and are taken automatically from the fund.

Many investment trust managers offer savings schemes that use their bulk-buying power to negotiate low commission charges for investors buying shares. Schroders' savings scheme, for example, makes a 1 per cent charge for buying shares in its UK Growth trust. These schemes also enable investors to buy shares on a monthly basis without having to give fresh instructions to a stockbroker each time.

Investment trust shares also qualify for inclusion in personal equity plans, so shareholders can enjoy any growth in income free of tax. Investment trust shares are also eligible for inheritance tax relief, incurring a 35 per cent discount on the value of the shares in addition to the trust's charges.

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1982	£2,029	£2,186	£1,816	£1,566
1987	£10,681	£10,391	£7,222	£2,354
1992	£13,830	£11,552	£7,880	£3,667
1997	£29,990	£20,115	£15,537	£4,596

* Plus statutory 0.5% Govt. Stamp Duty on purchase. The value of shares and the income from them can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the full amount invested. Past performance is no guide to the future. All figures sourced from the 30.06.77-30.06.97. Investment trust figures based on market prices, net income reinvested, incl. historical 3.5% national expenses. (Actual Plan charges: 0.2% commission and 0.5% Govt. Stamp Duty) Unit trust figures based on offer to offer, net income reinvested, incl. historical 6.5% national expenses. Building Society figures based on highest net rate available (UK Savings £25,000+ Account) total return net income reinvested. Foreign & Colonial Management Limited (regulated by FRC and the Personal Investment Authority) or its subsidiaries are the Managers of the investment trusts.

Last week's stock market turbulence may deter many investors from buying shares for the time being. The UK stock market has been scaling new heights all year, and many professional investors believe that share prices will soon crash. However, Ian Millward, of Chase de Vere Investments, thinks investors should still take the plunge. He says nervous investors should consider buying shares on a monthly basis through a savings scheme. "It's very hard to predict exactly when a correction is likely to take place," he says. "People who stay out of the market could miss out on good returns in the meantime."

On that basis, *The Times* asked three independent financial advisers to recommend their favourite growth and income investment trusts:

Richard Boyton, Fraser Smith.
Trust: Framlington Dual capital share.
Price: 79p. Discount: 60 per cent.
Comments: "A predominantly UK-based trust, due to be wound up in two years' time when investors should receive 160p per capital share if the trust continues growing according to plan. The trust has to grow by 5 per cent a year to meet its target. The only caveat is if the market falls substantially, but there's really very little growth required to provide tremendous returns."

Ian Millward, Chase de Vere Investments.
Trust: Henderson Income and Growth.
Price: 124p. Discount: 14 per cent.
Comments: "The ordinary shares yield 6.4 per cent income and stand at a discount of 14 per cent. The trust is due to be wound up in six years' time."

"Investors could expect to make a small profit on the basis of the discount alone at that point. It has a good steady fund manager, investing in blue chip companies and FTSE 100 stocks. It is a relatively low-risk profile compared to some other investment trusts."

Martin Mullany, Brooks Macdonald Gayer.
Trust: Schroders UK Growth.
Price: 199p. Discount: 4.1 per cent.
Comments: "The shares are selling at an unusually wide discount for this fund. The trust is run along the same lines as the Schroders Enterprise unit trust, which concentrates on a small portfolio of about 30 to 40 shares. Both funds are managed by Jim Cox, who has a good long-term track record. He has produced a very steady performance and within the trust's trading range."

For free investment trust fact sheets and other details, contact the Association of Investment Trust Companies on 0171-588 5347.

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This difference — the discount — varies. At the beginning of June 1997 the average discount for conventional investment trusts was 12%. This means that for an investment of, say, £1,000 you benefit from the discount from assets worth £1,120.

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Caroline Merrell discovers analysts at odds over the prospects for investment trust 'discounts'



Investment trust discounts have not yet reached Grand Canyon proportions, but Credit Lyonnais says many trusts "seem to be staring over the precipice"

Dismay as chasm widens

The word discount may make shoppers' hearts beat a little faster. But for those with a stake in an investment trust, it can spell dismay. The discount is the difference between the share price of a trust and the value of its holdings, its net asset value (NAV). The average investment trust discount is now around 12 per cent.

As a result of widening discounts, holders of shares in many trusts have seen the share prices of their trusts fall, in spite of stock markets soaring to record highs.

Discounts are caused by a lack of demand for investment trust shares which have fallen out of fashion, particularly among institutional investors. Jeremy Tighe of Foreign & Colonial believes that the trend is cyclical. He points out that many trusts stood at a premium to their asset values as recently as two years ago. He believes that trusts will regain their popularity.

Others, including a number of investment trust analysts, are not so optimistic. They believe that discounts will continue to widen, especially if markets begin to edge downward.

John Korwin-Szymanowski, investment trust analyst at Warburgs, is among those predicting a further widening of discounts. He argues that

discounts will narrow only if managers make a concerted effort to attract more investment into funds. There is a growing conviction that fund managers should take more responsibility for narrowing discounts by marketing trusts more aggressively.

Mr Korwin-Szymanowski said: "Many institutions are withdrawing from investment trusts entirely. Most of the large institutions are not new buyers of the funds." He pointed out that a couple of years ago several fund management groups, such as Mercury, Fidelity and M&G, launched a great number of new trusts, which contributed to the oversupply of shares in the market. He said that even if the discounts did begin to narrow, many of the institutions would take it as an opportunity to sell their holdings, which would lead to widening of the discounts again.

Legal & General, the insurance company, holds some big stakes in investment trusts as well as offering its own fund. David Rough, a Legal & General director, said: "We did reduce our holdings about four years ago,

when the discounts narrowed. We have gone back in to markets where we think there is good value. I hope that discounts are going to narrow again."

Legal & General also offers the Recovery investment trust, which has around £56 million under management and is aimed at both institutional and private shareholders. The trust now stands at a 19 per cent discount to its net asset value. Mr Rough denied that the company is planning to convert the fund to a unit trust. Unitising an investment trust in this way immediately cuts the discount and allows shareholders to sell their holdings to redeem their true value.

He admitted that Legal & General was disappointed with the level of the discount, but he added: "We actually believe that it offers good value for investors. Over the last 12 months its share price has risen by 14 per cent, which is in line with the market."

Tom Tuite-Dalton, Credit Lyonnais investment trust analyst, said: "We said in March that the discounts would continue to widen. We still believe this." Previously, at the bottom of the economic cycle after the 1987 crash, for example,

discounts widened to more than 20 per cent. He claimed that the only hope for investors was for arbitrage companies to build up stakes in funds. They could then put pressure on boards to restructure the funds.

For instance, investors in the £500 million Fleming Far Eastern trust are being given the opportunity of moving their holdings into a unit trust or are being offered cash. The institutional shareholders, which include the Prudential, Standard Life and the Liverpool Partnership, are believed to have put pressure on the board of the trust to restructure to combat the discount.

Mr Tuite-Dalton said that those looking to buy into investment trusts should choose funds where an arbitrage company has a stake. Credit Lyonnais said: "It is absurd, in our view many investment trusts seem to be staring over the precipice, just waiting for corporate pressure to be applied. Serious questions need to be asked about the longer-term viability of some trusts."

Boards have a wide range of options available to them, including capital reconstructions designed to reduce supply, partial open-endings; indeed, any scheme which proactively addresses the key priority of improving shareholder value."



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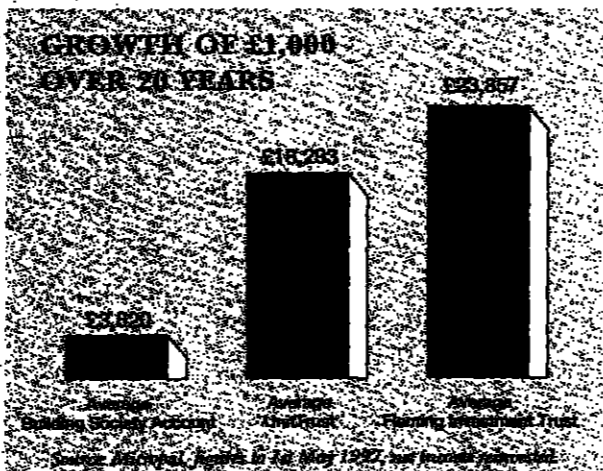
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Gavin Lumsden on trusts divided into a variety of share types

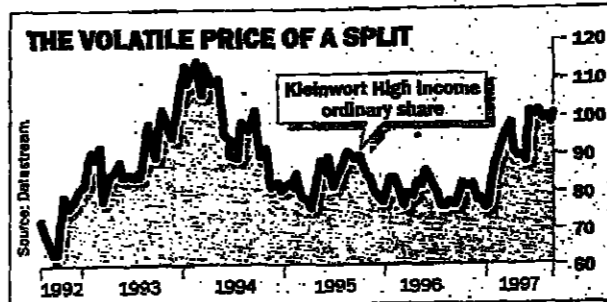
Tread very carefully when doing the splits

In the 1960s, the decade man reached the Moon, the rocket scientists of the financial world devised a new method of sending savings into orbit — the split-capital investment trust.

The idea was simple, split the capital structure of an investment trust into income and capital shares. All the dividends from the trust's investments would go to the income shareholders, giving them a much higher income than usual. The capital shareholders, meanwhile, would receive no dividends but would get all the trust's capital growth when it was wound up.

At the time, it seemed a brilliant solution to fulfil the two main requirements of investors simultaneously. Since then, however, split-caps have grown more complex as new share classes have been added.

Zero dividend preference shares were introduced to cut the risk of capital shares.



Holders of zeros are promised a predetermined redemption price, which has made them useful in financial planning.

A similar innovation was the stepped preference share, which offers a pre-set capital growth and rising income. At the other end of the risk spectrum, are income and residual capital shares, otherwise known as highly-gear ordinary shares, which aim to combine high income and capital growth.

This profusion of share classes can have the unfortunate effect of pitting different shareholders against each other, as in the case of Exmoor Dual, in which income shareholders discovered that they should have been receiving more dividends, but could not convince zero shareholders of the need to change the trust's articles of association. These conflicting interests have frequently exacerbated a downturn in investment conditions.

Many of the current crop of split-caps were launched in the late 1980s and early 1990s after a long period of high interest

rates and excellent stock market growth. Then, it seemed quite realistic to offer high income and good capital growth. However, when recession struck in the early 1990s, the stock market suffered and companies cut back on dividend payments. Suddenly, it was all that a split trust could do simply to pay its income shareholders. Capital growth vanished and the value of capital shares plummeted.

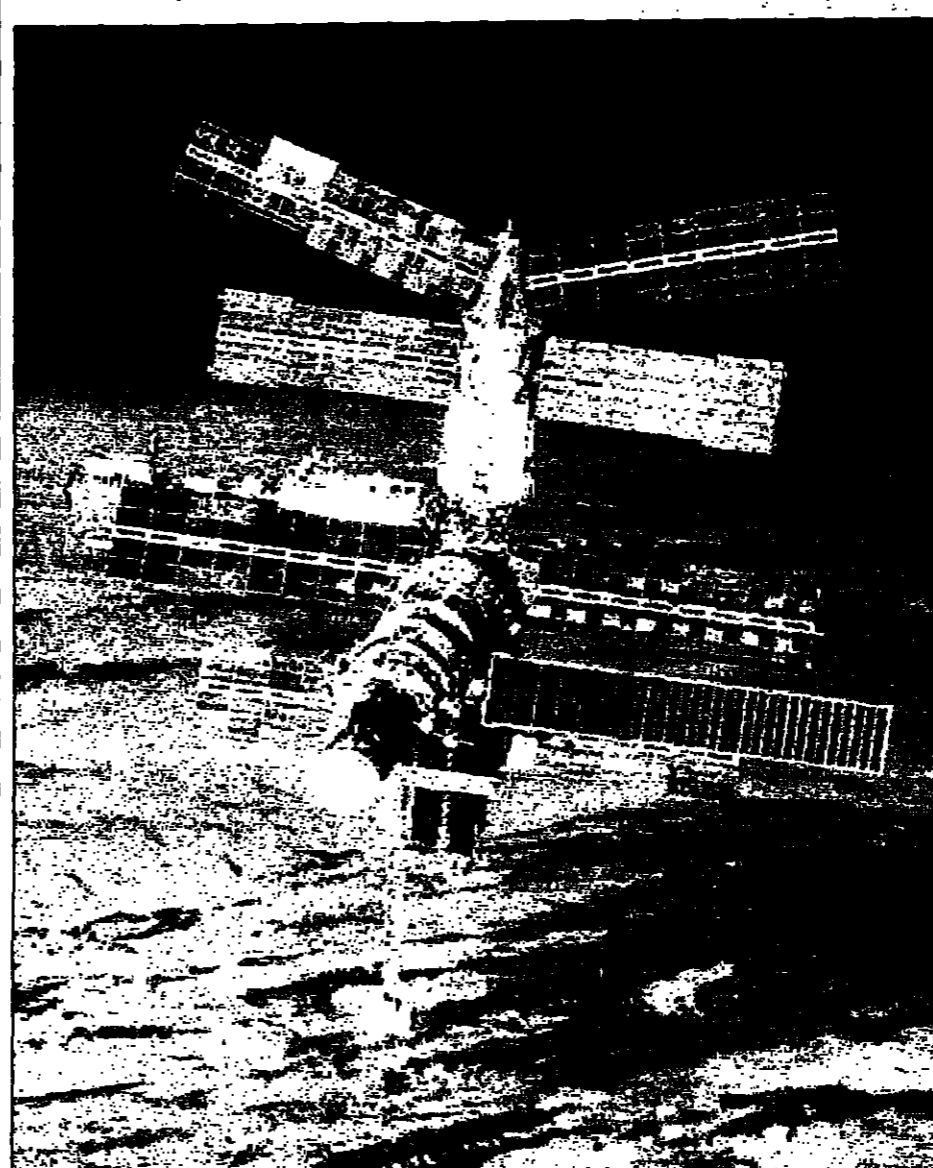
Market downturns hit splits harder than conventional trusts. This is because they are structured to intensify movements in the stock markets, a feature known as gearing. For instance, a £100 million trust split 50:50 between income and capital shares might generate £5 million of income a year (ie a yield of 5 per cent). All of this would go to the income shareholders effectively doubling the yield on their money to 10 per cent. Similarly, if the trust grows to £180 million, it will have achieved capital growth of 80 per cent, all of which will go to the capital shareholders, whose effective return on their money is 160 per cent. Unfortunately, this process can work the other way.

As a result, far from being a rocket-booster, riding up the equity markets, putting your money in split-caps can be like hitching a ride on the Russian Mir space station. What looks like an advanced vehicle turns out to be an accident-prone piece of junk that leaves you fearing for your money.

Many shareholders will have to weigh up this possibility in the next two years as nine split-caps reach the end of their fixed term and investors are asked whether they wish to roll over into a new trust or cash in their investment.

Fortunately, in spite of their volatility, most splits have managed to recover their performance in the past year. Kleinwort High Income, for instance, could suffer a 30 per cent fall in markets and still pay its zero holders the redemption price of 212.7p in June 1998. Its ordinary holders currently enjoy 13 per cent income and require just 3.6 per cent growth to get their capital back.

Splits' share prices will naturally improve as they approach wind-up and pay day. This represents a potential investment opportunity, although investors should realise that gearing can easily wreck this plan. Investing in splits always requires expert financial advice.



Mir, like split-capital investment trusts, may not look so good once you are aboard

Take long-term view with F&C

The enormous Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust is the world's biggest. This may be why Kenneth Clarke, a larger-than-life politician in every way, last week chose F&C as his first directorship since his return to the back benches.

The trust should also appeal to the former Chancellor's populist instincts. There are 130,000 shareholders, 50,000 of which invest through the company's £25-a-month minimum savings scheme.

At 57, Mr Clarke is almost exactly the same age as the average F&C investor, although many of William Hague's generation are now joining the share register.

But should investors, youthful or greying, follow the Member for Rushcliffe into the F&C fold? Only if they are prepared to stay loyal for the long term, in the hope that the recent improvement in F&C's fortunes can be sustained. In



the six months to June, net assets rose 10 per cent to £2,053 billion. By contrast, in 1996, one of the least-inspiring periods in the trust's 129-year history, the share price slipped 7 per cent while net assets rose just 5 per cent.

The 1996 annual report notes that Foreign & Colonial departed from the FTSE 100 index of leading shares in June "for reasons beyond our control", as if the trust's failure to perform was someone else's responsibility.

F&C's suffering arose partly from the appreciation of sterling, some 26 per cent of the trust's holdings are in the US. The sickly state of the Japanese stock market (which ac-

counts for another 10 per cent of the portfolio) also contributed to the underperformance.

At the start of 1997, the trust's managers decided to take advantage of the strength of sterling with a "gearing exercise", a frequent investment trust ploy. Jeremy Tighe, the F&C fund manager, explained that the trust took out short-term loans in German marks and French francs. "We converted this money into sterling. When we repaid the loans, sterling had appreciated further against both these currencies, which meant it cost us less

to repay the money. The amount left over was pure profit for the trust."

Currently the trust is standing at a 13 per cent discount to net asset value. Mr Tighe believes that the improvement in performance should, in time, narrow the discount. But John Korwin-Szymanski, investment trust analyst at Warburgs, argues that it takes a long time for good performance to translate into a narrowing of the discount and that "performance must be consistent".

ANNE ASHWORTH



Kenneth Clarke has joined the Foreign & Colonial fold



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Imprisoned: but like Tim Robbins in *The Shawshank Redemption*, leaseholders with negligent managing agents can now plan their escape

Flat-owners to fight back

Sara McConnell on how leaseholders will benefit from the long-awaited arrival of valuation tribunals

Thousands of flat-owners on long leases are expected to act to rid themselves of incompetent or negligent managing agents from next month.

The Government has given the green light for leaseholders challenging bad management or unreasonable service charges to apply to a leasehold valuation tribunal (LVT) from September 1, instead of taking their complaints to the county court. The tribunals will charge a maximum fixed fee of £500 and will not be allowed to award costs.

Many flat-owners have not dared to take landlords or their agents to court for fear of incurring large costs. But evidence of poor management of blocks, shoddy repairs and

intimidation forced the Government to strengthen the rights of leaseholders.

According to Lease, the advisory service for leaseholders, there is nothing to stop groups of residents in a block from forming themselves into a company and applying to the LVT to manage the block themselves. They will have to demonstrate that the managing agent, who could be the landlord himself, has breached his management obligations under the lease, failed to comply with recognised codes of conduct for

managing agents, or has demanded or is likely to demand unreasonable service charges.

But solicitors warn leaseholders that being given the green light to take over management control of a block does not signal the end of leaseholders' problems. David Marcus of Franks Charlesly, a London firm of solicitors, says: "The nature of management is changing. It's not like running a social club: you are running a property company with significant assets and you may end up suing your neighbours."

When you take over the

running of your block, you will still have leases and will be collectively responsible for making sure the block is repaired and insured in accordance with the terms of the lease. The freeholder will still own the freehold. Important issues will include:

- **Forming a company.** This is the easiest way to manage your block collectively. You and your fellow leaseholders will be the only shareholders. You should take legal advice on setting up and structuring the company.
- **Buildings insurance.** Are

you properly insured or even over-insured? Can you find a better deal by going to another insurer? Insurers will consider you a commercial risk rather than a domestic risk.

■ **Sinking fund.** Your lease may insist that you set up a fund to spread the cost of major works when they occur. If you do this the money must be held in trust.

■ **Major works.** You have to comply with landlord and tenant legislation by getting at least three quotations, of which one must be independent of you and your freeholder.

■ **Ensuring everyone pays.** This is the trickiest bit. If someone refuses to pay, you will have to take them to the LVT and prove that the charges are reasonable. If they are and the leaseholder still refuses to pay, ultimately you can evict the leaseholder.

However, many leaseholders have neither the time nor the expertise to run their blocks properly and should seriously consider appointing a managing agent, especially if the block has more than seven flats. Peter Ward, of solicitors Trowers and Hamlin, says: "A managing agent is money well spent. If you do it yourself it's a recipe for argument. A managing agent can act as arbitrator."

The Association of Residential Managing Agents (Arma) has a list of members, who all have to carry professional indemnity insurance and stick to a code of conduct.

Lease can be contacted on 0171-493 3116.

HOW TO DEAL WITH DISPUTES

Q What will the tribunal be able to deal with?

A It will be able to decide whether existing service charges are reasonable and whether it is reasonable for you to have to pay an interim charge in advance. For the first time you will also be able to challenge proposed costs as well as your existing bills.

The tribunal will also handle applications from leaseholders trying to get their manager replaced (see above). If your lease says you have to insure your block with an insurer nominated by the landlord and you believe the premiums

are unreasonable, you must argue your case at the tribunal.

Q But who decides what "reasonable" means? It's very vague.

A According to Lease, the tribunal will consider whether or not the works for which charges are disputed are necessary. It will also ask whether the original specification is adequate and whether the landlord got competitive tenders for the works.

Q Our landlord never replies to letters or phone calls and he will

not give us the information we need to build our case. What can we do?

A He is not legally obliged to supply you with information, but you may be able to persuade the tribunal to get necessary information for you. Recognised tenants' associations can appoint a surveyor to examine the building.

Q What do I have to do if I want to apply?

A Forms will be available from Lease, but you must serve a notice on the landlord.

Owners of the new R-registration cars sold to date are finding that they face some of the highest insurance costs this decade. The AA says that the average premium has risen by £44.49 in the past year, indicating that the car insurance price war is over.

An investigation by *The Times* shows that the burden of uncompetitive insurance premiums can be heavy. Using the details of a 35-year-old owner of a new Ford Mondeo from North London, we discovered a gulf of more than £300 between the best and worst insurance quotes.

The most expensive quote we obtained was from Royal

No short cuts to best car insurance deals

& Sun Alliance, which charged £641.32 for a year's comprehensive cover. For a driver with a five-year no-claims bonus who drove fewer than 8,000 miles a year for purely social purposes, this did not seem a good deal.

Looking elsewhere produced substantial savings. The next-worst quote was from Prudential at £560.25, while Hastings Direct offered cover at £448.20, almost £200 less than Royal & Sun Alliance's figure. The major-

ity of quotes were between £400 and £500, although Direct Line quoted £395.20, and AA Insurance £390.

However, a small number of companies offered much better deals. Premium Search came up with a £297 annual premium, and Preferred Direct was cheapest of all at £277.07. Our driver would have saved £364.25 per year by choosing Preferred Direct rather than Royal & Sun Alliance.

The findings did not sur-

prise James Wootton of Insurance Advice, the specialist insurance adviser which carries out twice-monthly surveys of premiums. He said: "A large number of companies selling car insurance are uncompetitive. Lots of drivers are paying far too much because they do not take the trouble to look around."

Rebecca Hadley of the AA agreed: "In this climate it is very important to shop around." She also advises motorists to seek out insurers who offer discounts for particular groups of customers, such as those who specialise in policies for people over 55.

NATHAN YATES

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SCOTTISH WIDOWS

National Savings launches helpline

National Savings has introduced a telephone helpline to make it easier for those who are deaf or hard of hearing to obtain product information, interest rate details and valuations of Savings Certificates. Callers will not be charged for this service. Textphone: 08000 500585.

☐ For the mass of first-time private investors who need to know how to buy and sell shares in the simplest and cheapest way, *MoneyFacts'* low-cost share-dealing fax service provides full details of commission charges for execution-only services of some 30 banks, building societies and stockbrokers with notes on family dealing discounts. Calls are charged at 50p per minute. Fax: 0336 400245.

☐ Yorkshire Bank has launched a telephone banking service which will enable customers to order statements and chequebooks, check balances, review transactions and transfer funds. Registration for telephone banking is free for all existing and new customers. All calls will be charged at local rate and access to the service is free for the first ten calls made each month, with subsequent

calls charged at 25p. Telephone 0345 365365 or contact your local branch for a registration pack.

□ A volatile market increases financial risk for everyone, whether they are investing directly in equities and bonds or indirectly via unit trusts, investment trusts and Peps. A new book claims that in 24 hours you will become an expert in the art of evaluating and managing financial risk, and whether the market falls or rises you will continue to make money. *Understand Financial Risk in a Day* will be published on October 1, but is available to readers of *The Times* at a discounted price of £5 including postage and packing. Cheques should be made payable to TTL, PO Box 200, Harrogate, HG1 2YR.

Q A gold credit card has been launched by American Express, created for "financially responsible individuals". The card offers an introductory rate of 12.6 per cent for the first six months, followed by 15.9 per cent APR, an interest-free period of 56 days and 90 days of purchase protection cover. For details, call 0900 700 717.

LIZANNE ROSE

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at August 21, 1997

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.00
	5,000	GE Fin Assur	6.20
	10,000	GE Fin Assur	6.80*
2 Years	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.70
	10,000	Hambro Assured	6.50
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.60
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.70
3 Years	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.80
	10,000	Hambro Assured	6.55
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.70
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.75
4 Years	1,000	Hambro Assured	6.30
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.35
5 Years	1,000	Hambro Assured	6.25
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.70

* Limited Edition
Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222 Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed.
Each municipality. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Clydesdale Bank 0800 445265	Savings	Instant	£25	6.50	Q
Clydesdale Bank 0.937 0800 742437	Instant Transfer		£1,000	7.00	Y
Alliance & Leic BS 0845 6089880	First Cis Inst	Postal	£10,000	7.25	Y
Abbey National 0800 174635	Bonus Postal	Postal	£50,000	7.33%	Q

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Scottish Widows Bank 0345 829829	60 Day Notice	60 day p	£500	6.50	Yr
First National BS 0800 558844	60 Day Notice	60 day p	£10,000	7.20	Yr
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Select 90	90 day p	£10,000	7.55	Yr
Scarborough BS 01723 500616	Scarborough 120	120 day	£5,000	7.50	Yr

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01498 744505		5 year	£3,000	7.80	Y
Investec Bank (UK) 0171 203 1850	Premier+leader	5 year	£9,000	7.55	Y
Midland Bank 0800 180180		5 year	£100	7.50	Y
Melton Mortgage BS 01664 63937		5 year	£1,000	7.50	Y

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Capital One Bank 0800 669000	Visa	0.64%N	7.90%N	N
RBS Advanta 0800 077770	Visa	0.79%N	9.90%N	N
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.87%C	10.90%	N

PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £5,000 for 3yr with insurance no insurance	
Direct Line 0181 680 9966	12.80%A	£183.75	£168.3
Hamilton Direct Bank 0800 303000	12.90%	£189.98	£166.8
Affiliate & Leic Gro 0990 626262	13.30%	£187.73	£167.5

Nb. A = Minimum age 22 years. Holders of comprehensive motor insurance policy or lender's existing customers, B = Withdrawals via Bank Clearing System, C = no interest free period, E = Rate includes bonus, F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable), N = Introductory rate for a limited period, P = By Post only

PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING
Source: Money Facts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692) \$90 67

PIBS

	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
FIXED RATE					
Birmingham & Midshires	9.375%	118.49	7.884	100.17	1,000.00
Bradford & Bingley	11.125%	142.76	8.143	100.13	1,000.00
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	159.58	8.146	100.20	10,000.00
Britannia	13.000%	159.76	8.137	100.42	1,000.00
First National	12.125%	151.80	7.935	100.75	1,000.00
Coventry	11.750%	142.22	8.282	100.25	1,000.00
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	164.74	8.119	100.23	1,000.00
Newcastle	10.750%	131.54	8.138	100.22	1,000.00
Northumbria	12.625%	154.56	8.136	100.42	1,000.00
Northampton	12.625%	154.23	8.186	100.41	1,000.00
Skipthorpe	12.875%	158.61	8.117	100.48	1,000.00

FLOATING RATE

Cheshire (30/09-27/03)	9.04063%	119.00	100.00	1,000
First Nat(22/09-20/03)	9.12031%	105.00	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source: ARN AMRO Hoare Gwynne - 0171 601 0101

Source: RAYMOND THOMAS GUYER — 617/551-5151

 LARGER LENDER

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Chelsea 0800 291291	5.39	£20-150k	80	Fixed to 1.8.99
Northern Rock 0800 281150	5.24	to £250k	90	Fixed until 1.10.99
Bradford & Bingley 0800 570800	5.60	£15k+	85	2.10% discount for 2 years.
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01189 551010	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.05% disc-6 mths 3% disc-8 mths
Barclay & West 0800 755100	2.90	No max	90	Fixed to 1.9.98


LARGER LOAN

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Nottingham Imper.	0.75	£25-150k	75	Fixed at 0.75% to £51.1.99
Leeds & Holbeck	0.99	to £180k	95	7% disc-6 mths, 1% disc-12 mths
0113 225 7777				6.99% disc-6 mths
Scarborough	1.20	£30-100k	95	2%-6mth, 0.5%-1.4%
0990 133149				
Banks				
Bank of Ireland	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.61% disc-6 mths
01189 510100				3% disc-6 mth
Abney National	4.99	to £125k	75	4.99% until 31.3.99
01936 363400				

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

[illegible]

WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

GED



Review must not ignore means testing on pension supplements

From Mr C. Sharp

Sir, There is one very important fact affecting any new proposal to encourage occupational or personal pensions which all your commentators seem to have missed. It is that for the nine million or so people entitled only to the fixed flat-rate state pension, most, if not nearly all, are receiving means-tested supplementary allowances to bring them up to what the Government (of whatever hue) regards as the minimum poverty line, however that may be defined in law.

This means that if present practices are maintained (and given the tight limits on government spending this is more than likely) any relatively small additional occupational

or other pension is likely to make little or no difference to the total income available to the pensioner, since the amount will only be wholly, or largely, deducted from the means-tested supplements as is the case at present.

If there is to be another serious review of the optimum relationship between state and non-state pensions this important factor must be clearly borne in mind and proper steps taken to ensure that the effect of additional pension provision (particularly if it is to be compulsory) will not be negated by the means-testing rules.

Yours faithfully,
CLIFFORD SHARP,
Wyke Hill House,
Gillingham, Dorset.

Horried by 'monstrous intrusion'

From Mr R. Breckman

Sir, I have recently received an unsolicited circular from Cheltenham & Gloucester Mortgage Direct, offering me £7,500 if I move my mortgage to them.

Notwithstanding the fact that I do not have a mortgage,

Winning bonds at a premium

From Mrs Y. Z. Newbury

Sir, Mr Brautson (Weekend Money, July 26) can consider himself lucky to own a premium bond which has come up with a win, however small, in both 1994 and 1997. My husband owned 40 bonds bought in or before 1972. He was apt to wonder why he kept them, but comforted himself that at least his name "was in the hat". One of them yielded £50 in June 1997. My husband died in January.

Yours faithfully,
YVONNE NEWBURY,
18 Northanger Court,
Grove Street, Bath.

I have been glibly informed that "because I am a valued customer of Lloyds Bank and have several standing orders on my account" this is the reason why I have been placed on their mailing list.

This is a monstrous intrusion into my private affairs and a gross misuse of the confidentiality of my account by my bank which I thought was sacrosanct. Is nothing sacred in this era of hard sell by our financial institutions?

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT BRECKMAN,
49 South Merton Street,
London, W1.

Letters or information for Weekend Money may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5062. Letters should include a daytime telephone number. The Times regrets it cannot always give individual replies or advice and asks that original documents are not sent in. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

Act fast to boost hopes of recovering antiques

All is not lost, but
most people do too
little, too late
after being burgled,
says Clare Stewart



There are specialist organisations that scour the country for stolen antiques

Owners of heirlooms in Hampshire will sleep a little easier in the knowledge that a gang of 14 thieves has been convicted by Winchester Crown Court for stealing antiques worth £1 million. However, for those who are victims of a burglary, a fast response to the situation will greatly improve the chances of recovering your treasured possessions.

Most people who lose valuable antiques in a burglary do too little, too late and waste opportunities to retrieve stolen items. A delay in notifying insurers of losses could make the difference between getting back your antique candlesticks and them being melted down for scrap silver.

According to Nordstern Art Insurance, the specialist art insurers, 58 per cent of clients claiming compensation in the last year delayed submitting claims for between two weeks and more than a month. Only 13 per cent of clients notified the insurer on the day of the burglary.

Charles Hill, risk manager at Nordstern, says a delay of hours can make all the difference. "Co-operation between the private sector and the police continues to be increasingly effective.

Given prompt warning, there is a chance of getting on the track of stolen goods. Delay helps the thieves."

People who have been burgled will inform the police immediately but may fail to take further immediate action, often because of the trauma of losing valuable items, particularly if they are family heirlooms. Many people postpone making a claim because they would prefer

to have the items returned rather than receive compensation.

Delays in tracking stolen items also occur because of inadequate documentation. "We encourage people to take photographs of items and make as detailed a description as possible, including measurements, distinguishing features, such as cracks, and all maker's marks," says David Scully, underwriting manager at Nordstern.

Two sets of records are recommended, one each for the police and insurers. Good documentation may also mean lower premiums because it is one of the factors taken into consideration when calculating the cost of insurance cover.

Insurers and loss adjusters work closely with groups such as the Art Loss Register, which compiles a text and visual database of stolen art and antiques. Jenny Gibson, an art historian at the Art Loss Register, said: "We search all the major auction house catalogues in the UK, US, Europe and the Far East to see if any items on our database are being offered for sale."

Another art-tracking service is offered by Trace Magazine, which carries information about stolen items and also enters details on its database and the Internet. Most of the UK insurance companies subscribe to the Art Loss Register and Trace, so individuals whose stolen goods are put on these databases do not have to pay.

Nordstern Art Insurance can be contacted on 0171-626 3001. The Art Loss Register: 0171-235 3393. Trace Magazine: 01983 836000.

THE WEEK IN MONEY

Skipton Building Society, Britain's ninth-biggest mutual, announced a 28 per cent increase in half-year profits to £18 million on Monday. The society obliged new customers opening accounts with less than £5,000 to make a donation of £25 to the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, raising £150,000 in the last six months. Net lending was about £200 million, while net retail receipts were £80 million.

Leeds & Holbeck increased its interim profits 16.8 per cent to £9.8 million. The rise was on the back of an increase in mortgage lending to £202 million. A total of 45,000 new accounts were opened in the first half of the year.

Insurance companies involved in the pensions mis-selling scandal have been urged to speed up the reinstatement process by Alan Milburn, the Health Minister. National Health Service workers were highlighted as being the largest category of employees affected by the scandal. Of the estimated 30,000 NHS staff who gave up their employer's pension plan in favour of less beneficial personal pensions, only 200 staff

have so far been reinstated. Earlier this month, Prudential said that it had doubled its provisions against pensions mis-selling to £450 million.

The pension fund surpluses of Britain's biggest companies are continuing to decline, according to a study by Bacon & Woodrow. The findings revealed that the average level of scheme funding has edged down to 113 per cent of ongoing liabilities from 115 per cent the previous year.

Pension contributions, measured as a proportion of total payroll costs, appear to have fallen again, with the average slipping from 5.7 per cent to 5.5 per cent. Actuaries claim that the Government's abolition of tax credits on dividend income announced in the Budget will cut 10 per cent to 15 per cent from pension scheme funding levels, potentially pushing the average scheme into deficit or close to it.

Figures from the Building Societies Association showed a record monthly inflow of cash from carpet-baggers and genuine savers. The remaining mutuals attracted £1.85 billion in July, compared with £1.84 billion in June.

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	SINCE LAUNCH	POSITION IN SECTOR		
	CHANGE		CHANGE	
International Growth	+732.7	3 out of 18	+115.8	AAA
Emerging Companies	+792.0	1 out of 28	+136.6	AAA
American Growth	+1366.9	1 out of 12	+148.9	AA
Far Eastern Growth	+444.6	1 out of 13	+146.3	AAA
Japanese Growth	+25.3	12 out of 73	+38.4	-
European Growth	+279.2	3 out of 5	+124.8	-
UK Growth	+399.8	1 out of 24	+137.8	AAA
Asian Smaller Markets	+118.4	9 out of 80	-	AA
Latin American Growth	+65.4	11 out of 25	-	-

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DIRECT LINE RATES

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Direct Line Instant Access Account	
BALANCE	ANNUAL INTEREST RATE
£1 - £4,999	5.00%
£5,000 - £9,999	5.50%
£10,000 - £49,999	6.00%
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Statistics are to 1st August 1997 and are on an offer-to-offer, US Dollar basis, inclusive of reinvested income, net of withholding taxes (source: Micropal). Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of an investment and the income from it can go down as well as up (this may partly be a result of exchange rate fluctuations), and you may not get back the amount invested. Perpetual has expressed its own views and opinions in this advertisement and these may be subject to change. This advertisement does not constitute an offer or solicitation by anyone in any jurisdiction in which such offer is not authorised or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation. Persons into whose possession this advertisement may come are required by the Manager to inform themselves of and to comply with any relevant restrictions.

THE TIMES SATURDAY AUGUST 23 1997

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return).
† Excludes: ‡ Mobile price; § No significant data.
Periodic Charge deducted from credit. @ For

Modest progress on the week

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	997	996	995	994	993	992	991	990	989	988	987	986	985	984	983	982	981	980	979	978	977	976	975	974	973	972	971	970	969	968	967	966	965	964	963	962	961	960	959	958	957	956	955	954	953	952	951	950	949	948	947	946	945	944	943	942	941	940	939	938	937	936	935	934	933	932	931	930	929	928	927	926	925	924	923	922	921	920	919	918	917	916	915	914	913	912	911	910	909	908	907	906	905	904	903	902	901	900	899	898	897	896	895	894	893	892	891	890	889	888	887	886	885	884	883	882	881	880	879	878	877	876	875	874	873	872	871	870	869	868	867	866	865	864	863	862	861	860	859	858	857	856	855	854	853	852	851	850	849	848	847	846	845	844	843	842	841	840	839	838	837	836	835	834	833	832	831	830	829	828	827	826	825	824	823	822	821	820	819	818	817	816	815	814	813	812	811	810	809	808	807	806	805	804	803	802	801	800	799	798	797	796	795	794	793	792	791	790	789	788	787	786	785	784	783	782	781	780	779	778	777	776	775	774	773	772	771	770	769	768	767	766	765	764	763	762	761	760	759	758	757	756	755	754	753	752	751	750	749	748	747	746	745	744	743	742	741	740	739	738	737	736	735	734	733	732	731	730	729	728	727	726	725	724	723	722	721	720	719	718	717	716	715	714	713	712	711	710	709	708	707	706	705	704	703	702	701	700	699	698	697	696	695	694	693	692	691	690	689	688	687	686	685	684	683	682	681	680	679	678	677	676	675	674	673	672	671	670	669	668	667	666	665	664	663	662	661	660	659	658	657	656	655	654	653	652	651	650	649	648	647	646	645	644	643	642	641	640	639	638	637	636	635	634	633	632	631	630	629	628	627	626	625	624	623	622	621	620	619	618	617	616	615	614	613	612	611	610	609	608	607
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DEGREE COURSE VACANCIES 1997: SCIENCES

UPDATED degree vacancies in science appear today for students hoping to start at university or college.

The number of places available continues to reduce steadily as students claim the last "free" higher education courses before the Government's introduction of £1,000 course fees in 1998. No-one starting a degree this year will pay any tuition charges.

Fully updated degree vacancies are published in *The Times* in a three-day cycle throughout August, with arts and social sciences on Thursdays and Mondays, engineering and technology on Fridays and Tuesdays, and science on Saturdays and Wednesdays.

An asterisk shows courses which are available in a variety of combinations. All other subjects are identified by the course code used in the *Ucas* handbook.

AGRICULTURE/AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

Aberdeen, D212, D218, D242, D243, D244, D245, D246, D247, D248, D249, D250, D251, D252, D253, D254, D255, D256, D257, D258, D259, D260, D261, D262, D263, D264, D265, D266, D267, D268, D269, D270, D271, D272, D273, D274, D275, D276, D277, D278, D279, D280, D281, D282, D283, D284, D285, D286, D287, D288, D289, D290, D291, D292, D293, D294, D295, D296, D297, D298, D299, D300, D301, D302, D303, D304, D305, D306, D307, D308, D309, D310, D311, D312, D313, D314, D315, D316, D317, D318, D319, D320, D321, D322, D323, D324, D325, D326, D327, D328, D329, D330, D331, D332, D333, D334, D335, D336, D337, D338, D339, D340, D341, D342, D343, D344, D345, D346, D347, D348, D349, D350, D351, D352, D353, D354, D355, D356, D357, D358, D359, D360, D361, D362, D363, D364, D365, D366, D367, D368, D369, D370, D371, D372, D373, D374, D375, D376, D377, D378, D379, D380, D381, D382, D383, D384, D385, D386, D387, D388, D389, D390, D391, D392, D393, D394, D395, D396, D397, D398, D399, D400, D401, D402, D403, D404, 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GOLF: JOHANSSON EQUALS COURSE RECORD TO TAKE LEAD IN EUROPEAN OPEN

Montgomerie eyes merit award

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN DUBLIN

COLIN MONTGOMERIE had another solidly professional round in the Smurfit European Open at the K Club yesterday, a 69 this time. He made four birdies and took three putts once — just another day at the office, really. No matter that his body clock is out of sync after he clocked a heater-sketter dash here from Colorado on Monday and tiredness, like darkness in northern Europe, keeps stealing up on him quickly.

The worries of his bad driving at the Open and US PGA championships seem to have shrivelled in the less competitive atmosphere of a European Tour event. Montgomerie worked out why he has been hooking the ball recently when he was halfway through the made-for-television match against Phil Mickelson in the United States.

He moved the ball back in his stance. In most right-handers that would promote a draw, but in Montgomerie's case it promotes a fade. "Typical of me to be different," he said, smiling. "This slight change made Montgomerie surge past Mickelson and, from being four strokes behind, he finished three strokes ahead. The form he showed on the inward holes against the left-hander has stayed with him and, after 36 holes here, Montgomerie is 11 under par.

The K Club is not itself this year. Though it has a monstrous yardage of 7,179, this is not the course that it could and, perhaps, should be, and the players have toyed with it as a result. At tea-time, more than one third of the field of 156 were under par. Montgomerie set a course record in the first round: Per-Ulrik Johansson, of Sweden, equalled it in the second to take a one-shot lead over the Scotsman at the halfway mark.

José María Olazábal claims that he does not know whether he will be selected by Severiano Ballesteros, the Europe Ryder Cup team captain, if he falls to qualify automatically and, meanwhile, is struggling for a semblance of form. He shot a 73 yesterday for a two-under-par total of 142 and, according to Sergio Gomez, his manager, Olazábal is "without sparkle."



Olazábal's struggle to find form was evident during a disappointing round of 73 at the K Club yesterday

He does not believe in himself." Olazábal said that when he is on the driving range he hits the ball well, but that on the course he cannot score. "I am putting badly," he said. "That is not helping. But it is not the greens because Costantino Rocca [with whom Olazábal played] putted beautifully." Rocca's round of 68 left him three strokes behind Johansson.

Montgomerie's considerable success in Europe could have created a dilemma for himself. He could probably win the European order of merit for a fifth time if he puts his mind to it. At present he lies fourth, less than £60,000 behind Ian Woosnam and Bernhard Langer, and £46,000 behind Darren Clarke. He will certainly overtake Langer, who missed the cut here, and Clarke, who is competing in the World Series in Ohio, and he will probably overtake Woosnam, whose two rounds of 71 mean that he is nine strokes behind Montgomerie.

The difficulty is that to go for a record fifth win in the order of merit requires Montgomerie to play his heart out for the rest of the season in Europe. He has already played for the past two weeks: he intends to compete every week for the next eight. And in the middle of this run comes the Ryder Cup. The worry for Europe supporters is that, at Valderrama, Montgomerie will resemble Laura Davies at the Solheim Cup last year — present, but too tired to be at her best.

Paula Radcliffe claimed the Commonwealth record, and improved her own British record for 5,000 metres here in the two Van Damme memorial meeting last night. She does not intend to let it rest there. Radcliffe, the only British woman to reach a track final in an individual event at the world championships in Athens, said, after clipping 1.25sec off her previous record, that she felt capable of breaking the world record.

Once again, Radcliffe was unable to match the finishing pace of Gabriela Szabo, the Romanian who won the world title, but this time she was rewarded. Her new record, of 14min 45.51sec, takes her to within ten seconds of the world mark of 14:36.45, held by Fernanda Ribeiro, from Portugal.

Having finished just outside the medals in Athens, when her lack of a finish was exposed, Radcliffe deserved something more tangible from her efforts last night. None of the three pacemakers managed to go beyond 3,000 metres and it was with five laps to go that Radcliffe seized the initiative.

At that point, she was two seconds inside world-record schedule but, with neither Szabo nor Sally Barsosio, from Kenya, willing to take a share of the work, the pace slackened. With 1,300 metres to go, Radcliffe almost suffered a personal disaster, stumbling on the kerb and having to raise her hands to maintain her balance.

Barsosio had been running on Radcliffe's shoulder and, coming too close to her, she clipped the Briton and almost caused her to fall. Radcliffe maintained the lead until 270 metres from home when Szabo, with her familiar burst of pace, flew past to win in 14:44.21.

This year, Radcliffe has finished second in the world cross country championships, fourth over 5,000 metres at the world championships, improved her 3,000 metres personal best to 8:35.28 and, now, improved her British record to 14:45.51.

Of the world record, Radcliffe said that, with another season's training, and perfect conditions, she should have a chance of breaking it. Conditions were not ideal here, she said: too humid, with a wind down the track straight.

Szabo, world indoor 3,000 metres champion and world outdoor champion, has been beaten only once this season. However, she was not very impressed with herself last night. "I did not run very well," she said, blaming too many celebration parties after Athens for her slight drop in form.

BOWLS

Veteran Cook fails to bridge generation gap

BY DAVID RHYNS JONES

A BRAVE attempt by the older generation to stave the tide of youthful success failed at Worthing yesterday. Dennis Cook, 78, not before Dennis Cook, 78, from Ross-on-Wye, had given the world outdoor heats champion, Andy Thomson, 41, a hard time in the third round of the national triples' championship.

Cook's trio, who could boast an aggregate age of 204, were not expected to trouble Paul Hayler, Gary Smith and Thomson, from Blackheath and Greenwich, but played brilliantly, especially in the first half, and a surprise appeared on the cards when the Herefordshire team led 10-6 after 12 ends. A saving sequence of 4-3 and 1-3 came as a relief to the favourites, who were glad to get home, 17-14. Their quarter-final opponents, John Orme, Howard Brealey and Robert Gough, of Chichester, were in equally obdurate mood after lunch, though.

With two ends to play, the scores were level at 12-12, but the Kent trio scored a double on the seventeenth and dropped one on the last end to win 14-13, after Gough had trailed the jack with panache, with his second delivery to set up a match tie of three shots.

Thomson rattled the woods around and moved the jack, leaving Derbyshire with only one shot, and Gough was unable to add a second, which would have tied the match. Peter Line, 66, skipped Atherley into the quarter-finals, but they were beaten by a Lincoln St Giles triple skipped by Danny Brown, 33. Blaby, skipped by Tony Brimley, the Leicestershire president, 55, was edged out by a Wiltshire side, whose skip, Kevin Cousins, a junior international, is only 24.

Perhaps the most impressive performance of the day came from the Wigton triple of Paul Barlow, 26, Andy Baxter, 30, and Steve Parish, 27, who won the national singles championship at Worthing in 1992. They overcame a Barton House team, from Lincolnshire, skipped by Mike Asplen, whose No 2, Alan Bates, is 67, by 14 shots, 22-8.

South Bank, C800, C185, C183, C184, C185, C186, C187, C188, C189, C190, C191, C192, C193, C194, C195, C196, C197, C198, C199, C200, C201, C202, C203, C204, C205, C206, C207, C208, C209, C210, C211, C212, C213, C214, C215, C216, C217, C218, C219, C220, C221, C222, C223, C224, C225, C226, C227, C228, C229, C230, C231, C232, C233, C234, C235, C236, C237, C238, C239, C240, C241, C242, C243, C244, C245, C246, C247, C248, C249, C250, C251, C252, C253, C254, C255, C256, C257, C258, C259, C260, C261, C262, C263, C264, C265, C266, C267, C268, C269, C270, C271, C272, C273, C274, C275, C276, C277, C278, C279, C280, C281, C282, C283, C284, C285, C286, C287, C288, C289, C290, C291, C292, C293, C294, C295, C296, C297, C298, C299, C300, C301, C302, C303, C304, C305, C306, C307, C308, C309, C310, C311, C312, C313, C314, C315, C316, C317, C318, C319, C320, C321, C322, C323, C324, C325, C326, C327, C328, C329, C330, C331, C332, C333, C334, C335, C336, C337, C338, C339, C340, C341, C342, C343, C344, 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Have you chosen your fantasy team?

Code	Name	Team	Price
10101	Jim Leighton	Aberdeen	2.0
10201	David Seaman	Arsenal	5.0
10301	Mark Bosnich	Aston Villa	1.0
10401	David Watson	Barnsley	1.0
10501	Tim Rowes	Blackburn Rovers	2.5
10601	Kelvin Bannagan	Bolton Wanderers	1.0
10701	Stewart Kerr	Cardiff	1.5
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11201	Mark Poom	Derby County	1.5
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11401	Ian Westwood	Durham	2.0
11501	Neil Smith	Everton	1.0
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12201	Peter Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.0
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12401	Shay Given	Newcastle United	1.0
12501	Andy Blanton	Nottingham Forest	1.0
12601	Kevin Pressman	Sheff Wednesd	2.5
12701	Alan Main	St Johnstone	0.5
12801	Mark Taylor	Swansea City	1.0
12901	Ian Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	1.0
13001	Ludvik Mikosko	West Ham United	2.0
13101	Nell Sullivan	Wrexham	2.5

Code	Name	Team	Price
20201	Lee Dixon	Arsenal	3.0
20301	Emmanuel Petit	Arsenal	3.0
20401	Steve Staunton	Aston Villa	1.0
20501	Alan Wright	Aston Villa	1.0
20601	Simon Grayson	Aston Villa	1.0
20701	Fernando Nelson	Aston Villa	1.0
20801	Nicky Eadon	Barnsley	1.0
20901	Neil Thompson	Barnsley	1.0
21001	Jeff Kemp	Blackburn Rovers	2.0
21101	Patrick Valley	Blackburn Rovers	2.0
21201	Robbie Elliot	Bolton Wanderers	1.0
21301	Tommy Boyd	Cardiff	1.0
21401	Tosh McCallum	Cardiff	1.0
21501	Jackie McNamara	Cardiff	1.0
21601	Grames Le Saux	Cardiff	1.0
21701	Dan Petrescu	Cardiff	1.0
21801	Celestine Babayaro	Cardiff	1.0
21901	David Barrow	Cardiff	1.0
22001	Brian Bennett	Cardiff	1.0
22101	Marcus Hall	Cardiff	1.0
22201	Dean Gordon	Cardiff	1.0
22301	Marc Edwards	Cardiff	1.0
22401	Kevin Muscat	Cardiff	1.0
22501	Chris Powell	Cardiff	1.0
22601	David Taylor	Cardiff	1.0
22701	Andy Marshall	Cardiff	1.0
22801	Earl Barrett	Cardiff	1.0
22901	Terry Phelan	Cardiff	1.0
23001	Gary Locke	Cardiff	1.0
23101	Dylan Kerr	Cardiff	1.0
23201	Gary Kelly	Cardiff	1.0
23301	David Robertson	Cardiff	1.0
23401	Steve Guppy	Cardiff	1.0
23501	Sheela Byrne	Cardiff	1.0
23601	Jason McKee	Cardiff	1.0
23701	Derek Irvine	Cardiff	1.0
23801	Gary Neville	Cardiff	1.0
23901	Phil Neville	Cardiff	1.0
24001	Steve Watson	Cardiff	1.0
24101	Wesley Brown	Cardiff	1.0
24201	John Bostford	Cardiff	1.0
24301	Stuart Pearce	Cardiff	1.0
24401	Alan Codd	Cardiff	1.0
24501	Stella Stenhouse	Cardiff	1.0
24601	Patrick Blomfield	Cardiff	1.0
24701	Jason Dodd	Cardiff	1.0
24801	Francis Benall	Cardiff	1.0
24901	Simon Charlton	Cardiff	1.0
25001	Chris Wilson	Cardiff	1.0
25101	Justin Edinburgh	Cardiff	1.0
25201	John Dicks	Cardiff	1.0
25301	Andy Impey	Cardiff	1.0
25401	Bernie Threlker	Cardiff	1.0
25501	Kenny Cunningham	Cardiff	1.0
25601	Alan Kimble	Cardiff	1.0

Code	Name	Team	Price
30101	Sean O'Neil	Aberdeen	2.0
30201	Tony Adams	Arsenal	3.5
30301	Marin Keown	Arsenal	3.5
30401	Giles Grimandi	Arsenal	2.0
30501	Gareth Southgate	Aston Villa	3.5
30601	Ugo Ekezie	Aston Villa	3.5
30701	Arjen de Zeeuw	Barnsley	1.0
30801	Adrian Moxon	Barnsley	3.5
30901	Matty Appleby	Barnsley	0.5
31001	Colin Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	3.0
31101	Stephane Henchoz	Blackburn Rovers	2.0
31201	Garry Tappett	Bolton Wanderers	1.5
31301	Gudni Bergsson	Bolton Wanderers	1.0
31401	Chris Fairclough	Bolton Wanderers	1.0
31501	Erno Antton	Cardiff	3.0
31601	Mark Mackay	Cardiff	3.0
31701	Alan Stubbs	Cardiff	3.0
31801	Frank Leboeuf	Cardiff	3.0
31901	Michael Duberry	Cardiff	2.0
32001	Steve Clarke	Cardiff	2.5
32101	Bernard Lambourde	Cardiff	2.5
32201	Leon Dargatzis	Cardiff	1.5
32301	Richard Shaw	Cardiff	1.5
32401	Paul Williams	Cardiff	1.5
32501	Andy Roberts	Cardiff	1.5
32601	Andy Linington	Cardiff	0.75
32701	David Tuttle	Cardiff	0.75
32801	Igor Stancu	Cardiff	2.5
32901	Jacky Laursen	Cardiff	2.5
33001	Steve Priday	Cardiff	2.5
33101	Gary Shields	Cardiff	1.5
33201	Steve Ellis	Cardiff	1.5
33301	David Watson	Cardiff	1.5
33401	David Ward	Cardiff	1.5
33501	John Hughes	Cardiff	1.5
33601	David Wetherall	Cardiff	1.5
33701	Gunnar Hale	Cardiff	1.5
33801	Robert Molinar	Cardiff	1.5
33901	Lucas Radzbe	Cardiff	1.5
34001	Matt Elliott	Cardiff	1.5
34101	Philippe Albert	Cardiff	1.5
34201	Steve Walsh	Cardiff	1.5
34301	Mark Wright	Cardiff	1.5
34401	Dominic Hackett	Cardiff	1.5
34501	Born Karmne	Cardiff	1.5
34601	David May	Cardiff	1.5
34701	Gary Falaris	Cardiff	1.5
34801	Henning Berg	Cardiff	1.5
34901	Marvin van der Gaag	Cardiff	1.5
35001	Philippe Albert	Cardiff	1.5
35101	Darren Peacock	Cardiff	1.5
35201	Steve Howie	Cardiff	1.5
35301	Alexandros Patsone	Cardiff	1.5
35401	Sergio Poma	Cardiff	1.5
35501	Joachim Bjorland	Cardiff	1.5
35601	Luizao Ananias	Cardiff	1.5
35701	Des Walker	Cardiff	1.5
35801	Jon Newson	Cardiff	1.5
35901	Peter Atkinson	Cardiff	1.5
36001	Stuart McCloskey	Cardiff	1.5
36101	Richard Dwyer	Cardiff	1.5
36201	Claus Lundkvist	Cardiff	1.5
36301	Ulrich van Gobbel	Cardiff	1.5
36401	John Campbell	Cardiff	1.5
36501	John Scopes	Cardiff	1.5
36601	Ramon Vega	Cardiff	1.5
36701	Colin Calderwood	Cardiff	1.5
36801	Rio Ferdinand	Cardiff	1.5
36901	Chris Fyfe	Cardiff	1.5
37001	Steve Potts	Cardiff	1.5
37101	David Unsworth	Cardiff	1.5
37201	Chris Perry	Cardiff	1.5
37301	Dean Blackwell	Cardiff	1.5

Code	Name	Team	Price
40101	Eoin Jess	Aberdeen	3.0
40201	Paul Bernard	Aberdeen	2.0
40301	Marc Overmars	Arsenal	5.5
40401	Patrick Vieira	Arsenal	3.5
40501	Stephen Hughes	Arsenal	3.5
40601	Roy Parkes	Arsenal	2.5
40701	David Platt	Arsenal	1.5
40801	Mark Draper	Aston Villa	1.5
40901	Ian Taylor	Aston Villa	2.0
41001	Andy Townsend	Aston Villa	2.0
41101	Neil Redden	Barnsley	3.0
41201	Eric Tarkenton	Barnsley	2.0
41301	Darren Sheridan	Barnsley	1.0
41401	Martin Bullock	Blackburn Rovers	0.5
41501	Jason Wilson	Blackburn Rovers	2.5
41601	Billy McKinlay	Blackburn Rovers	2.5
41701	Tam Shawwood	Blackburn Rovers	2.5
41801	Garry Filcott	Blackburn Rovers	2.5

Code	Name	Team	Price
50101	Alan Thompson	Bolton Wanderers	3.0
50201	Scott Selass	Bolton Wanderers	2.0
50301	Pir Prindon	Bolton Wanderers	2.0
50401	Michael Johnson	Bolton Wanderers	2.0
50501	Jamie Pollock	Bolton Wanderers	2.0
50601	Andrew Thom	Cardiff	3.0
50701	Phil O'Donnell	Cardiff	3.0
50801	Peter Grant	Cardiff	1.5
50901	Craig Dunlop	Cardiff	3.0
51001	Reggie Walker	Cardiff	4.0
51101	Dennis Wilson	Cardiff	4.0
51201	Roberto di Matteo	Cardiff	4.0
51301	Eddie Newton	Cardiff	2.5
51401	Gustavo Poyet	Cardiff	2.5
51501	Gary Mulholland	Cardiff	2.5
51601	Trend Egi Solbodt	Cardiff	2.5
51701	John Salako	Cardiff	2.5
51801	Simon Rodger	Cardiff	2.5
51901	Darren Pitcher	Cardiff	2.5
52001	Paul Warham	Cardiff	2.5
52101	Adrian Lombard	Cardiff	2.5
52201	Alonso Asencio	Cardiff	2.5
52301	Stefano Brivio	Cardiff	2.5
52401	Darryl Powell	Cardiff	2.5
52501	Chadman Duffy	Cardiff	2.5
52601	Robin van der Laan	Cardiff	2.5
52701	Jonathan Hunt	Cardiff	2.5
52801	Robbie White	Cardiff	2.5
52901	Andy Smith	Cardiff	2.5
53001	Denk Fleming	Cardiff	2.5
53101	Garry Speed	Cardiff	2.5
53201	Joe Parkinson	Cardiff	2.5
53301	Markus Nyden	Cardiff	2.5
53401	Danny Williamson	Cardiff	2.5
53501	Neil McCann	Cardiff	2.5
53601	Chris Thompson	Cardiff	2.5
53701	Barry Lawry	Cardiff	2.5
53801	John McInnes	Cardiff	2.5
53901	David Holmes	Cardiff	2.5
54001	Lee Bowyer	Cardiff	2.5
54101	Al Hogg	Cardiff	2.5
54201	Paul Hogg	Cardiff	2.5
54301	Garry Parkes	Cardiff	2.5
54401	Neil Lannon	Cardiff	2.5
54501	Scott Taylor	Cardiff	2.5
54601	Michael Thomas	Cardiff	2.5
54701	Oyvind Lomholdt	Cardiff	2.5
54801	David Beckham	Cardiff	2.5
54901	Ryan Giggs	Cardiff	2.5
55001	Roy Keane	Cardiff	2.5
55101	Nicky Butt	Cardiff	2.5
55201	John Cole	Cardiff	2.5
55301	Billy Davies	Cardiff	2.5
55401	Robert Lee	Cardiff	2.5
55501	Keith Gillespie	Cardiff	2.5
55601	David Bates	Cardiff	2.5
55701	Brian Barnes	Cardiff	2.5
55801	Brian Laudon	Cardiff	2.5
55901	Paul Gascoigne	Cardiff	2.5
56001	James Thorne	Cardiff	2.5
56101	John Alderton	Cardiff	2.5
56201	Bernie Carboni	Cardiff	2.5
56301	Mark Penitridge	Cardiff	2.5
56401	Graham Hyde	Cardiff	2.5
56501	Alvin Selkirk	Cardiff	2.5
56601	John Maguire	Cardiff	2.5
56701	Richard Slater	Cardiff	2.5
56801	Neil Maddison	Cardiff	2.5
56901	Andy Strain	Cardiff	2.5
57001	Darren Anderson	Cardiff	2.5
57101	Ruel Fox	Cardiff	2.5
57201	David Howells	Cardiff	2.5
57301	Tottenham Hotspur	Cardiff	2.5
57401	Eyal Berkovic	Cardiff	2.5
57501	Steve Lomas	Cardiff	2.5
57601	John Moncur	Cardiff	2.5
57701	Michael Hughes	Cardiff	2.5
57801	Robbie Earle	Cardiff	2.5
57901	Nell Arley	Cardiff	2.5
58001	Vinny Jones	Cardiff	2.5
58101	Carl Hughes	Cardiff	2.5

Code	Name	Team	Price
60101	Clint Marcelle	Barnsley	1.0
60201	Kevin Galloway	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
60301	Martin Duffin	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
60401	Chris Sutton	Blackburn Rovers	4.0
60501	John McKinley	Bolton Wanderers	2.0
60601	Nathan Blake	Bolton Wanderers	2.0
60701	Peter Beardsley	Bolton Wanderers	8.0
60801	John Gough	Cardiff	3.5
60901	Mark Hughes	Cardiff	3.0
61001	Darren Jackson	Cardiff	7.0
61101	Graham Zola	Cardiff	5.0
61201	Mark Hughes	Cardiff	3.0
61301	Don Dublin	Cardiff	3.0
61401	Darren Huckerby	Cardiff	2.5
61501	Karl Whelan	Cardiff	2.5
61601	Neil Shipley	Cardiff	2.5
61701	Douglas Freedman	Cardiff	2.0
61801	Bruc Dyer	Cardiff	4.0
61901	Dean Burridge	Cardiff	2.0
62001	Ashley Ward	Cardiff	2.0
62101	Francisco Belano	Cardiff	3.0
62201	Andy McLean	Cardiff	2.0
62301	Karl O'Rourke	Cardiff	2.0
62401	Garry Brown	Cardiff	2.0
62501	Duncan Forgan	Cardiff	2.0
62601	Nicky Barmby	Cardiff	2.0
62701	Griffin Stuart	Cardiff	2.0
62801	John Raftery	Cardiff	2.0
62901	Paul Wright	Cardiff	2.0
63001	Aly Mitchell	Cardiff	2.0
63101	Paul Hogg	Cardiff	2.0
63201	Paul Hogg	Cardiff	2.0
63301	Paul Hogg	Cardiff	2.0
63401	Paul Hogg	Cardiff	2.0
63501	Paul Hogg	Cardiff	2.0
63601	Paul Hogg	Cardiff	2.0
63701	Paul Hogg	Cardiff	2.0
63801	Paul Hogg	Cardiff	2.0
63901	Paul Hogg	Cardiff	2.0
64001	Paul Hogg	Cardiff	2.0

71601	Neil McCann	Hearts	2.5
71602	Chris Jackson	Leeds United	2.5
71603	Bobby Lowley	Sheff Wed	2.5
71701	Jon McInerney	Kilmarnock	2.5
71801	David Hooper	Leeds United	2.5
71802	Lee Beasley	Leeds United	2.5
71803	Ally Taylor	Leeds United	2.5
71804	Lee Sharpe	Leeds United	2.5
71901	Garry Parker	Leeds United	2.5
71902	Neil Lennon	Leeds United	2.5
71903	Stacey Izzi	Leeds United	2.5
71904	Scott Taylor	Leeds United	2.5
72001	Steve McClaren	Leeds United	2.5
72002	Oyvind Leonhardsen	Liverpool	2.5
72003	Matthew Thompson	Liverpool	2.5
72004	Jamie Redpath	Liverpool	2.5
72005	Paul Ince	Liverpool	2.5
72101	Dave Smith	Manchester United	2.5
72102	Ryan Giggs	Manchester United	2.5
72103	Roy Keane	Manchester United	2.5
72104	Michael Owen	Manchester United	2.5
72105	Andy Cole	Manchester United	2.5
72201	Billy Davies	Manchester United	2.5
72202	Tobias Linderoth	Newcastle United	2.5
72302	Edi Ekinci	Newcastle United	2.5
72303	David Narey	Newcastle United	2.5
72305	Brian Barnes	Newcastle United	2.5
72401	John Lundrup	Rangers	2.5
72402	Paul Gunning	Rangers	2.5
72403	James Thorne	Rangers	2.5
72404	Jorg Albertz	Rangers	2.5
72501	Barrie Setford	Sheff Wed	2.5
72502	Mark Penningale	Sheff Wed	2.5
72504	Graham Hyde	Sheff Wed	2.5
72601	John Souttar	Sheff Wed	2.5
72701	Jim Magilton	Southampton	2.5
72702	Robbie Slater	Southampton	2.5
72703	Neil Macpherson	Southampton	2.5
72801	Andy Sinclair	Tottenham Hotspur	2.5
72802	Darren Anderson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.5
72803	Russ Fox	Tottenham Hotspur	2.5

DAVID HANDS



RUGBY LE

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First Team



Cooke accuses RFU of being cack-handed

A decision on a successor is due on Friday when the RFU management board meets to consider recommendations from the national playing committee. Woodward, who has had meetings with Bill Beaumont, the committee's chairman, and Don Rutherford, the director of rugby, is regarded as something of a free spirit, but Mitchell, as the forwards' coach, and Roger Untley, who is expected to be named as manager, would be more than adequate falls. Where that would leave Mike Slemen and Les Cusworth remains to be seen.

Leeds give Sinfield chance at 16

"As it is coming to the end of the season, I thought that I would give him a taste of first-team rugby. It will give him




Meanwhile, Lindsay is wanted back at the troubled Wigan club, where an RFL team, including Roy Waudby, the financial director, Tony Eagleton, the financial executive, and Ronnie Teerman, a solicitor, is trying to unpick the mess after the resignations of Jack Robinson and Tom

An olive branch by Thomas, who stepped into the chairman's role and invited peace talks, was spurned by Whelan. "Once all three directors are gone, we can start talking," he said. "I don't want to take over the club, but I believe that a deal could be done to keep Wigan in the borough of Wigan."

Coultard the first to win 100 caps

It is likely that England will celebrate Coulter's achievement with a victory. They beat Scotland 6-0 at Bramall Lane in March, and in 12 meetings between the sides since 1972, England have won 11 and lost one.

Newcastle's hopes high against weakened Bath



with a win, the other promoted team, Richmond, will hope to match them at the expense of London Irish. They have advertised their opening match locally as a family day and hope for a 6,000 crowd, but family values may be notably absent on the field as these near-neighbours need to make the best of starts in what

1. *Staphylococcus aureus*

(7.30). Section D: Darby (in Dunhill 7.30) Section D: Longford (in Funnith 7.30).

ULSTER RIBBIT DIVISION CUP: First round, first leg: Boyleston v Smithy; Carrick v Carrow; Dungannon v Larnah; Newry v University Ltd.

WINSTONLEIGH KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham v Polkommers Institute; Canterbury v Elm; Chislehurst v Broomfield; Dover, Corinthian v Crystal Palace v Sloughway; Greenwich v Sheppey; Harve Bay v Faversham; Hayes v Thamesmead; Lambeth v V&A; Maidstone v Moolands; Tunbridge Wells v Stave Green

SCHWEPP'S DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Beeston v Epsom; Bognor Regis v Bidegate; Brighton v Chippenham; Bristol Manor Farm v Brentford; Charlton v Bromley; Hammersmith v Kensington; Millwall v Leyton; Nymansbury; Pauldon R v Calne; Thurston v Spartan; Westbury v Tooting.

MILTON SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division south: Banburyville v Birmingham; Beaconsfield v Oxford City; Colchester v Ipswich; Havant v Woodstock; Huddersfield v Rushall Abbey; Kingston v Brook; Leicester Albion v Wellingborough Town; Newport Athletic v Northampton Athletic v Huddersfield; Repton v Langford; London Colney v Milton Keynes; Plymouth v Seaford; Poole v Bar v Arlesey Town; Toxteth v Lechworth; Watling v Garden v Braue

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Arsenal v Tottenham (11.0); Brentford v Haverhill (11.0); Ipswich v Portsmouth (11.30); Norwich v Fulham (11.30); Southend United v Luton (11.30); Southampton v Millwall (11.30); Watford v Cambridge Utd (11.0). Second division: Barnet v Brentford (11.30); Bristol City v

[illegible]

Halkham v. Chichester; Haslewood v. Bournemouth; Haslemere v. Telfordshire
 Hants. Y.M.C.A. Portland v. Burgess Hill; Ringwood v. Lissington; Salisbury v. Mole Oak; Southampton v. Bitter. Winchester v. Fighnham. Wicks v. Langney Sports.

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Bawell v. Wiltshire; Bournemouth v. Halesworth; H. Bournemouth S. v. Strishal T. Chesham v. Rushall O. Ockington v. Wexham; Polesd v. Lymington; Salisbury v. K. Nympton; v. Rochester v. King's Norton; St. Pauline v. Bridgford. W. Mid Police v. Stratford

NORTHERN COUNTRIES EAST LEAGUE:
 Accrington v. Denham v. Penrith; Cotes, Gossington; Westgate v. Maccy; M.A. St. Helens v. C. C. C. Ashton, A. K. C. v. St. Helens v. Sheffield, Liversidge v. Flixing; North Farnley v. Cossati Ashton; Cossati Town v. Brigg Town, Selby v. Easingth; Thackley v. Amthorpe

RUGBY UNION

Inter-provincial championships
 Connect v. Ulster
 (at Sports Ground, Galway, 2/30)
 Munster v. Leinster
 (at Musgrave Park, Cork, 2/30)

Allied Dunbar Premiership
 First division
 Bath v. Newcastle (2/15)
 Bath v. Bristol (2/15)
 Northampton v. Harlequin (2/31)
 Richmond v. London Irish (2/31)

Welsh League
 Premier division
 Brecknock v. Llanelli (2/30)
 Cardiff v. Newport (2/30)
 Pontypridd v. Ebbw Vale (2/30)
 Swansea v. Newport (2/30)

First division
 Aberystwyth v. Maesteg (2/30)
 Carmarthen v. Balaclaw (2/30)
 Durnavut v. Cardiff Institute (2/30)
 Llanvorydd v. Crickeo Keys (2/30)
 Porthpool v. Bonymantle (2/30)
 Rumney v. South Wales Police (2/30)

Cup matches
 Hyde v. Sale (3/30)
 Fylde v. Macclesfield (3/30)
 High Wycombe v. Luton Huls (3/30)
 Macclesfield v. Liverpool S. Huls (3/30)
 Nottingham v. Burton (3/31)
 Redruth v. Penrith (3/30)
 Sheffield v. Donkey (3/30)
 West Hartlepool v. Glasgow (3/31)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Knock-out 2/30
NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Boreham v. Myleth (at Fraser Road); Haverth v. Luck Lale; Hull Unions v. Darby H. Saddleworth v. West Hall; Watney Centre v. Oldham S.

Division 1: Wigan S. Fulneck v. Epsom; Wootton v. Ascham. First division: Blackpool v. Milford; Eastwood v. Burnley; Llanelli v. Reech; Middlewich v. Wigan S. Jude's; Luton v. Leigh East; Salford v. East; Ossett; Thornhill v. Shaw Cross. Second division: Doncaster v. Macclesfield; Ecdon v. St. David's; London Students v. Cossedale; Northampton v. Fossallatham; Amersham v. Doncaster; York v. Alconbury v. Hull Dockers.

OTHER SPORT

BOWLING: All-England championships (at Worthing); Atlantic All-morow championships (at Worthing); All-England Women's (at Worthing); RITC national time-trial series (5/20K, Harrogate, 20 Durham, 20

THE BELLBY: British women's amateur strategy championship (at St Hill)
HOCKEY: East Anglian derby (at Sturt Hill, 10.30)
SPEEDWAY: Isle League: Bradford v Selkirk (7.30); Coventry v Poole (7.30); Eastbourne v Ipswich (7.30) Premier League: Benwick v Sledge (6.30) Amateur League: Benwick v Burton (6.0)

Tomorrow

FOOTBALL
FA MAPL LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE
CUP: Southampton v York (12.00)
Section B: Farned v Sledge (3.0) Section C: Linnick v Wemmer, Umead (2.0) Section D: Horley v Sun v St. Francis (2.0) Section F: Bohemians v Bally (3.15); UCD v St Patrick's Ath (3.15)
FA YOUTH CUP: Preliminary round: Thame v Heywood (10.30)

CRICKET
Sixth County Test match
11.00, 10.00 day of first 5 overs minimum
THE OVAL: England v Australia
Asa Isle League
2.0, 4.0 overs
CHESTER-LE-STREET: Durham v Middlesex
CAULDRON: Campanan v Northamptonshire
BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Lancashire
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Devonshire
TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v Essex

WOMEN'S
SCARBOROUGH: Yorkshire v Sussex
MATCH UNDER-15 INTERNATIONAL
NATC (first day of first) Northamptonshire v Zimabwe
NATIONAL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (1st day of two)
Worcester Park: Bedfordshire v Buckinghamshire
Dean Park, Bournemouth: Dorset v Devon
Trowbridge: Wiltshire v Shropshire

RUGBY UNION
Allied Dunlop Premiership
First division
Sale v Saracens (3.0)
Welsh League
First division
Treorchy v Aberavon (2.0)

OTHER SPORT
ATHLETICS: AAA championships (at Saragham)
BOWLS: All-England championships (6.0)
WORTHING: All-England men's world championships (at Landisford Works)
CYCLING: National all-around championships (7.30), Bury St Edmunds, 3.0
TIMOTHY CATH: two-day, stage one, 6.0
miles, Sharncliffe, 10.30am
CUP: Smurfit European Open (at N. Cume)
GO KARTING: FFA Seniors championship (at The Bellby, British women's amateur strategy championship (at St Hill))
HOCKEY: East Anglian derby (at Sturt Hill, 10.30)
SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Glasgow Newcastle (6.30), Newport v Repton (2.30), Oxford v Ayr (2.30)
Amateur League: Latholme v Ruston (2.30)

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Crowds flock to see one of motor racing's greatest challenges in practice for Belgian Grand Prix

Torrent of danger backs drivers into a corner

The noise grew in intensity until the car, Michael Schumacher, plunged into Eau Rouge at 180mph. His Ferrari was floating on surface water, which ran downhill towards the car, and twitching malevolently. A small, almost imperceptible movement of his head signalled he was fighting for control yet, through the spray, he aimed for the tip of the tallest pine tree on the horizon.

As he disappeared over the blind brow here yesterday afternoon, a red tail-light winked through the gloom, the crowd was strangely silent. They were awestruck. The pilgrims to the corner where testosterone meets adrenalin had been rewarded. They had been reminded of the essence of Formula One, a sport in danger of being ennobled by the conventions of political correctness.

Ayrton Senna, whose death resulted in the neutering of many circuits, called Spa, venue for the Belgian Grand Prix tomorrow, "the university of Formula One". Eau Rouge is the site of its masterclass.

Jacques Villeneuve consciously catches his breath there. Damon Hill suppresses the eerie sensation that he is about to bury himself beneath the Ardennes forest.

Even Schumacher has to ignore instincts that implore him to reduce the pressure applied on the accelerator by his right foot.

It is a rare reality check, at a time when the paddock is preoccupied by the political machinations of the silly season. The ceaseless chatter about contracts and cash, alliances and aggression, is put into context by the challenge that it represents. It allows cynics to regress into their childhood without a catalytic loss of street credibility.

In the words of Tom Walkinshaw, the TWR Arrows team owner: "It's the last real man's corner left in Formula One".

The cars accelerate out of La Source, a right-hand hairpin, shaving the barriers as they accelerate downhill, past the old pit lane. The bravest drivers reach 180mph by the

MICHAEL CALVIN



At Spa Francorchamps

time they cross the bridge that spans the red-tinted stream, which gives the corner its name. They flick their cars left, and then right, towards an intimidating wall of Tarmac that appears to stretch to infinity. The car bottoms out just as the driver is being assaulted by G-forces that approach four times his own body weight.

His helmet feels unbearably heavy. His vision is blurred. His shoulders are bruised, his neck is compressed. He is dimly aware of sparks coming from the underside of the

chassis, but is too busy trying to stop the car from slewing sideways to care. "You feel as if you are just going to keep going down, down, down," Hill explained. "I'm not in Formula One for the danger — in fact I'd be quite happy if we were divorced from the macho stuff — but there is something addictive in the sensation of going flat out through Eau Rouge. Deep down, getting something special out of yourself is what we all do for this."

Yet the job is only half done at the old hill in the valley overlooked by an old hotel, which, in a concession to the commercial realities that shaped Formula One, has been colonised for the weekend by the corporate-hospital-

ity hordes. The car climbs 300 feet in a fraction of a second, when the driver is wrestling with the wheel and a warped sense of perspective. "You really have to push yourself as a human being to take Eau Rouge quickly in the wet," Villeneuve said. "It seems impossible, but you have to make the conscious decision to do it."

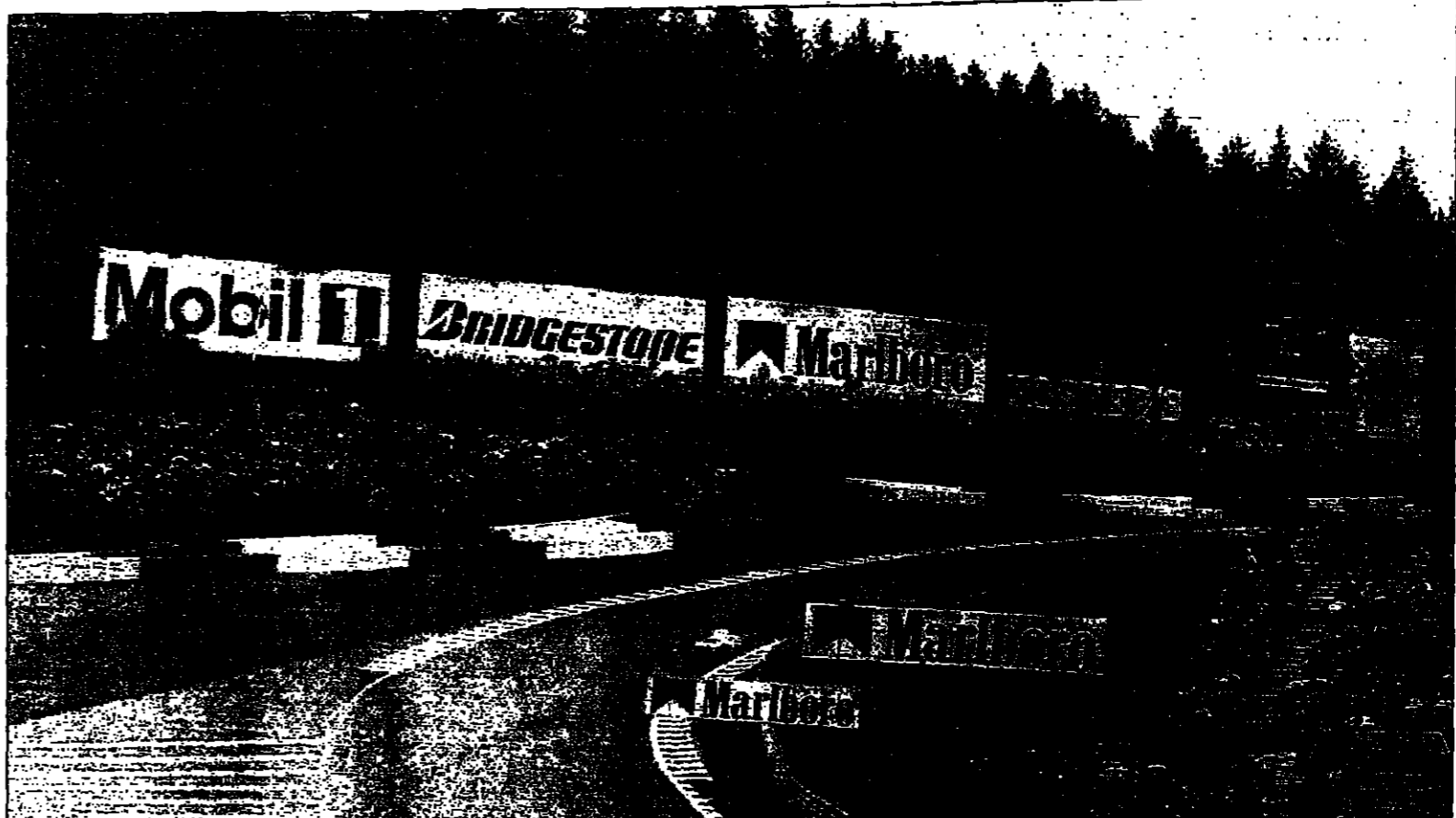
"You have to break through a barrier that is mental, as well as physical. It seems like you're climbing into the sky. Even if you feel on the verge of disaster, you have to imagine your right foot is bolted to the floor and you can't lift it off. You hang in there, getting more and more tense. You stop breathing."

"You feel as if you are absolutely on the ragged edge and are lucky to make it through. It depends on instinct and blind faith in your capabilities."

There are surprisingly few serious accidents, although the Italian driver, Alex Zanardi, champion-elect in the IndyCar series this season, was fortunate to survive a momentous crash in a Lotus in 1993. He ploughed straight on, instead of negotiating the final left-hand kink at the crest. Failure of the pressurised active suspension system left him a passenger. The deceleration was so violent that it stretched his safety harness and resulted in him hitting the steering wheel.

"I have two black-and-white pictures of the crash fixed in my memory," he said. "One is of people trying to rescue me and the other, quite amazing, is of me with my head a couple of centimetres from the wall. That must have been after the first impact, because I had nothing left on the left side of the car. The front and rear tyres had been ripped off, along with the suspension, and the sidepod was gone. I'm lucky to be able to talk about it."

The corner encourages humility, an awareness of history. Johnny Herbert, with good reason, characterises Eau Rouge as "the biggest test of skill in Formula One". Alan Jenkins, the designer of the first Stewart-Ford, described it as "one of those great motor-



Cars battle through the spray during the first free practice at Spa-Francorchamps yesterday. Photograph: Mike Cooper / Allsport

ing places where history is engraved on the Tarmac". His driver, Rubens Barrichello, climbed out of the car yesterday, having taken fourth place in free practice, and summed up the experience in a single word, "Fantastic".

Hill, whom he relegated to

fifth on the provisional grid, was similarly wide-eyed. "With 22 of us hammering towards Eau Rouge, we'll be able to see nothing," he predicted. "Even out there on my own, I had it sideways and nearly into the barrier. It's scary."

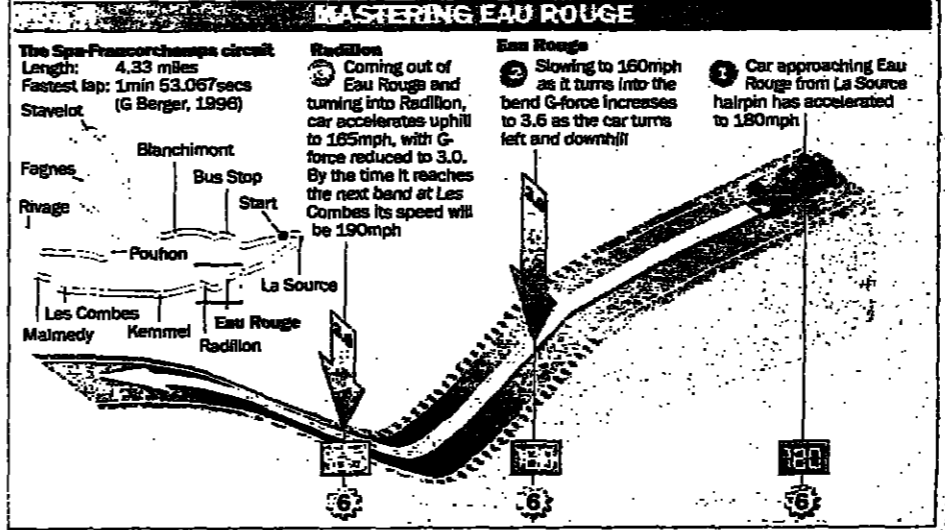
"In those conditions all you can do is to grit your teeth with a flood of water coming towards you. It's travelling at 150mph and you're travelling at 175mph in the other direction, so you start aquaplaning. It's just so treacherous. In those conditions, all you can do is

grit your teeth and concentrate like hell."

But it is Schumacher to whom everyone defers in such circumstances. He has won three times at Spa in the past five years and regards the circuit as his spiritual home.

"Many people ask me why I

do what I do," he said. "This gives me all the answers. It is a true driver's circuit, on which you can express yourself. I look forward to coming here every year. Every time I go through Eau Rouge, it gives me a special feeling. A feeling like no other."



PRACTICE TIMES: 1, G. Berger (Austria) 2:08.228; 2, M. Schumacher (Germany) 2:08.228; 3, A. Zanardi (Italy) 2:08.228; 4, D. Hill (UK) 2:08.228; 5, J. Herbert (UK) 2:08.228; 6, J. Villeneuve (Canada) 2:08.228; 7, J. Barrichello (Brazil) 2:08.228; 8, J. Senna (Brazil) 2:08.228; 9, J. Montoya (Spain) 2:08.228; 10, J. Coulthard (UK) 2:08.228; 11, J. Agnew (UK) 2:08.228; 12, J. Ward (UK) 2:08.228; 13, J. Mayfield (UK) 2:08.228; 14, J. Ward (UK) 2:08.228; 15, J. Ward (UK) 2:08.228; 16, J. Ward (UK) 2:08.228; 17, J. Ward (UK) 2:08.228; 18, J. Ward (UK) 2:08.228; 19, J. Ward (UK) 2:08.228; 20, J. Ward (UK) 2:08.228; 21, J. Ward (UK) 2:08.228; 22, J. Ward (UK) 2:08.228; 23, J. Ward (UK) 2:08.228; 24, J. Ward (UK) 2:08.228; 25, J. Ward (UK) 2:08.228; 26, J. Ward (UK) 2:08.228; 27, J. Ward (UK) 2:08.228; 28, J. Ward (UK) 2:08.228; 29, J. Ward (UK) 2:08.228; 30, J. Ward (UK) 2:08.228; 31, J. Ward (UK) 2:08.228; 32, J. Ward (UK) 2:08.228; 33, J. Ward (UK) 2:08.228; 34, J. 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RACING

Among Men can give Stoute cause to celebrate

By RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

AFTER the battering suffered by punters at York's Ebor meeting this week, it is questionable whether many will have any ammunition left with which to try to balance the books today. Perhaps, that is just as well.

While there is no shortage of races from which to choose, quality is in short supply and today's feature event, the Triple Crown Celebration Mile at Goodwood, is something of a damp squib, having attracted just four runners for the £50,000-added group two event.

Polar Prince, who beat the Michael Stoute-trained Faithful Son in the Diomed Stakes at Epsom on Derby Day, subsequently ran with credit at the Curragh and Deauville, while Cape Cross won over course and distance three weeks ago before disappointing slightly at Sandown ten days ago.

Nap: AL MUALIM
(3.10 Newmarket)
Next best: Dancing Image
(2.45 Goodwood)

However, it is difficult to look beyond the Stoute-trained Among Men, who has improved with every run since making a winning debut at Newmarket's Guineas meeting.

A reproduction of the form which saw him win the Jersey Stakes would suffice here and he produced an even better effort when finishing fourth, beaten 2½ lengths, behind All-Royal in the Sussex Stakes here. Although the bookmakers have their scepticism full after the Knavesmead exchanges, they are hardly likely to be generous with their odds.

Earlier in the afternoon, 13 runners line up for the Crownson "Rated" Handicap (2.45), but the three to concentrate are Restructure, who returns to handicap company after contesting group races, King Of Peru, a course and distance winner who ran his



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

best race at Goodwood last time, and Dancing Image, a Building decision to return the Salsie gelding to seven furlongs paid off handsomely when he ran out an easy winner over course and distance last time out. Best held up in a fast-run race, he can follow up in the capable hands of Michael Kinane.

The shares of Ladbroke are climbing ever higher on the stock market and the sprint handicappers, helped to explain its commercial success. Backers are attracted like moths to light by such races despite the difficulty of separating 20 or more tightly handicapped sprinters.

With Ogi (drawn three, Gadge (two) and Scissor Ridge (five) all looking to race prominently, the pace is likely to develop up the stands' side, and that could help Faraway Lass, ridden by Frankie Dettori. She recorded a career-best effort when finishing fourth, beaten less than a length, in the Stewards' Cup. All her best form is on a sound surface and any overnight rain would reduce her chances.

Away from the television cameras, the race which makes most betting appeal is the Chris Blackwell Memorial Handicap at Newmarket (3.10). Jockeys showed a good turn of foot to win a competitive Goodwood handicap last time and is on the upgrade, while Jawhari and Sharpo Wassi will deservedly have their supporters.

However, Al Mualim has improved on each of his four starts and impressed when beating Levelled at Lingfield six days ago. That was over six furlongs and he should be equally effective over today's trip.

RAGELINE
0930 MONDAY
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NEWARK 102 202
BEVERLEY 103 203
CARTRIDGE 104 204
WINDSOR 105 205
REDCAR 106 206
ANY RACE 107 207
WIS 120 220
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10/1 Double Bounce	20/1 Gadge
10/1 Tiler	20/1 Levelled
11/1 No Extras	20/1 Ponds Ca
12/1 Bowden Rose	25/1 Lord Olivier
12/1 Willow Dale	25/1 Resist The Force
14/1 Sir Joey	33/1 Scissor Ridge
14/1 Golden Pound	33/1 Spender
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Midnight Line profits from slender margin

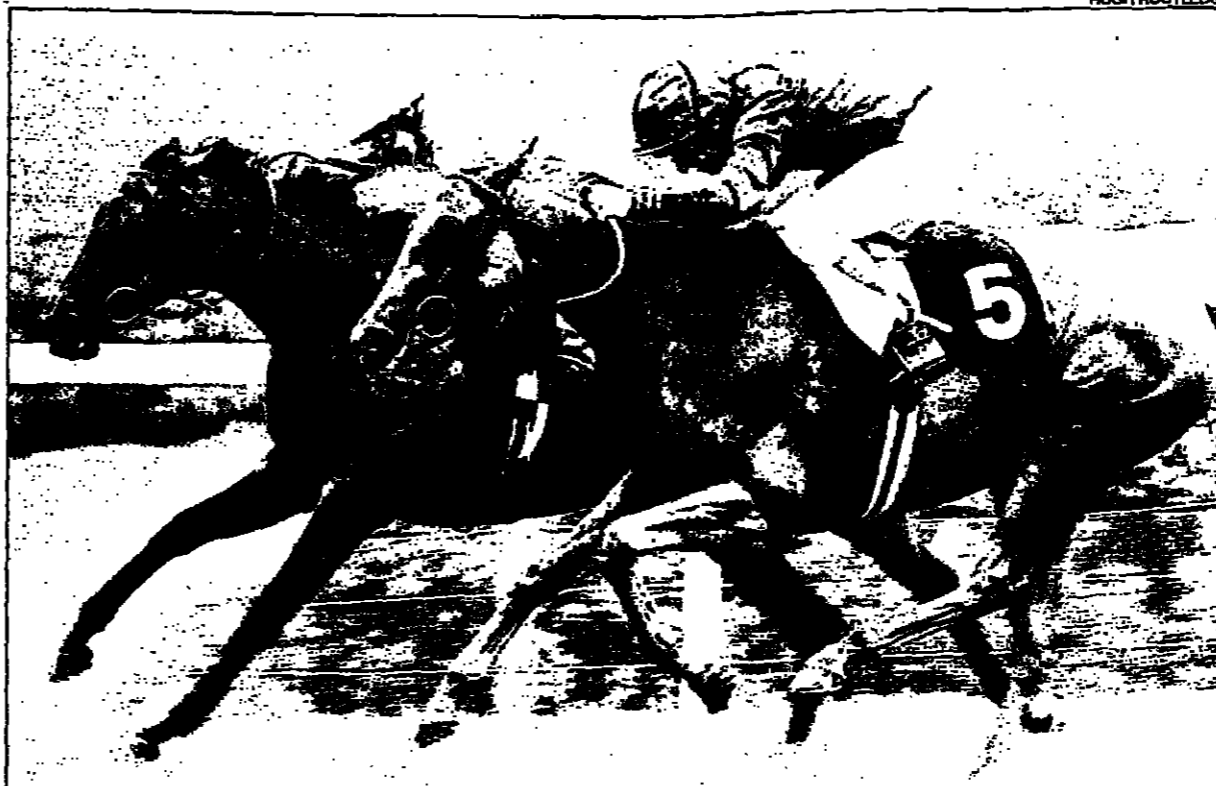
By CHRIS MCGRATH

LITTLE wonder if in racing fortunes frequently appear suspended by a horsehair. Sometimes they are determined by the width of one. At Goodwood yesterday, 24 hours after declaring a famous dead-heat in the Nunthorpe Stakes at York, Jane Sticksels was presented with a photograph that teased the very justice out of judging.

The two fillies involved, after a desperate finish to the Prestige Stakes, even seemed to have been named with her own private nightmares tormenting in mind: Midnight Line and Alignment.

After some ten minutes' examination of their murky nostrils — half the time it took her to reach a verdict at York — the official felt able to distinguish a minute advantage in favour of Midnight Line.

When the print was submitted to astonished analysis by members of the press, some of whom could even hold a magnifying glass steady, it was difficult to imagine how much less decisive the Nunthorpe handicap could have been. It sounds like an easy job, being a racecourse judge, but you would not be surprised to learn that Tilly Savalas had been one.



Midnight Line, near side, finishes strongly to deny Alignment by a short head at Goodwood yesterday

How cruel that so much — from 1000 yankers in a Penge betting shop to the many thousands of pounds that a group three success adds to the value of a broodmare — can hinge on so little. Doubly so that Alignment should

have been headed for but one stride in covering these seven furlongs of rolling downland. The courage with which she defended her lead met a suitable match, but neither filly deserved to be beaten.

The difference is half

width of the cursor line, but I didn't need a second print today," Sticksels said yesterday. "It can be extremely difficult to get the line exactly on the horse's nose, and sometimes as little as a flared nostril makes the difference."

It's very sad for the loser, but I'm here to split them if I can."

Midnight Line, trained by Henry Cecil for Fahd Salman, had won over course and distance at the big meeting here last month, and may

now try to emulate the May Hill Stakes success of her dam, Midnight Air. Anthony Penfold, the owner's racing manager, said: "She has run her heart out, and another furlong will not go amiss should she go to Doncaster."

Willie Ryan, the winning jockey, added: "As we saw at York, when it takes so long, you would both happily settle for a dead-heat. All credit to both fillies, they're very game."

Earlier in the summer, even more had hinged on a similarly close verdict, when Ryan clung on to the Derby on Benny The Dip, and John Reid — while confessing the print to be "as close to a dead-heat as I have ever seen" — was in no mood to push his luck in lamenting that of Alignment. He had got up in similar circumstances with Cape Verdi to deprive Embassy in the Lowther Stakes at York the previous day, earning 1,000 Guineas favouritism in the process.

Bookmakers have lesser expectations for the protagonists here, Coral offering 3-1 about both, and likewise about Elshammas, the beaten favourite. "I'm disappointed, because I thought she was very good," Alec Stewart, her trainer, said. "But she is immature and didn't get home after doing too much early on."

GOODWOOD

2.15 Pello Sky 3.50 Among Men
2.45 Dancing Image 4.20 Sticksels
3.15 Ogi 5.25 SHINING EXAMPLE (nap)
5.25 Hayday
Timekeeper's top rating: 3.50 CAPE CROSS.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
DRAW: 3F-1M, HIGH NUMBERS BEST SIS

2.15 SPORT ON 5 MARCH STAKES (3-Y-O; £13,000; 1m 6f) (5 runners)

101 (2) 21-1125 PALLO SKY (5) (M) J. Dettori 6-1 M J Home 113
102 (1) 412 PELLO SKY (5) (M) J. Dettori 6-1 M J Home 113
103 (3) 20-1125 PALLO SKY (5) (M) J. Dettori 6-1 M J Home 113
104 (4) 20-1125 PALLO SKY (5) (M) J. Dettori 6-1 M J Home 113
105 (5) 20-1125 PALLO SKY (5) (M) J. Dettori 6-1 M J Home 113

BETTING: 5-1 Pello Sky, 5-1 Pello Sky, 5-1 Pello Sky, 5-1 Pello Sky, 5-1 Pello Sky

106 (1) 21-1125 PALLO SKY (5) (M) J. Dettori 6-1 M J Home 113
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BETTING: 5-1 Pello Sky, 5-1 Pello Sky, 5-1 Pello Sky, 5-1 Pello Sky, 5-1 Pello Sky

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BETTING: 5-1 Pello Sky, 5-1 Pello Sky, 5-1 Pello Sky, 5-1 Pello Sky, 5-1 Pello Sky

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3.10 CHRIS BLACKWELL MEMORIAL HANDICAP (3-Y-O; £6,116; 1m 2f) (13 runners)

101 (2) 21-1125 PALLO SKY (5) (M) J. Dettori 6-1 M J Home 113
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BETTING: 5-1 Pello Sky, 5-1 Pello Sky, 5-1 Pello Sky, 5-1 Pello Sky, 5-1 Pello Sky

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

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BETTING: 5-1 Pello Sky, 5-1 Pello Sky, 5-1 Pello Sky, 5-1 Pello Sky, 5-

Spin bowler's triumphant day unlikely to change Atherton's mind

Tufnell makes Australia struggle

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE OVAL (second day of five): England, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 14 runs ahead of Australia

ENGLAND'S long-suffering public, struck dumb by the speed and severity of Ashes surrender, found its voice yesterday and acclaimed a rediscovered hero. The roars of applause for Phil Tufnell had barely died away, however, when another exhibition of shell-shocked batting restored the mood of misery.

Tufnell, playing his first home Test match for more than three years, bowled unchanged for 35 overs on a dry, flaking pitch to take seven for 64. In a turbulent England career, littered with incident and disappointment, he has never bowled better. Australia's lead was restricted to 38 and, briefly, the horrors of the opening day were forgotten as the Oval crowd anticipated a startling victory.

They should have known better. England lost three wickets while still in debt, among them Michael Atherton for his seventh single-figure score of the series. His technique is disorientated and his mind must be in turmoil. This match may be lost some time today, if and when it is. Atherton will surely call a halt to his vain, valiant struggle with the captaincy of a losing team.

Atherton is a strong and obstinate character but no man can indefinitely shoulder such a burden. England have no obvious successor but if the job is now lowering his quality of life, not to mention the quality of his batting, his basic honesty will persuade him to stand down.

Much of yesterday's cricket will have cheered him but, I sense, his mind was already made up. The likelihood is that he will resign with dignity and, private man that he is, seek leave of absence from county cricket for a few days of rest and reflection.

He should know, at least, that there was nothing more he could have done to prove England's predicament here, unless it was to score a lot more runs. Some of England's cricket has been appalling but, in the field, Atherton coped manfully.

When the seamers were profligate, he took them off; when Tufnell began to mesmerise, he supported him with positive, imaginative fields. This, demonstrably, was not Australia's day and for much of it they were toiling to gain any sort of first-innings advantage.

Drizzle interrupted play twice in the opening hour and Australia, pinned down by Tufnell and an improved Malcolm, had added only 17 from 11 overs when they lost their third wicket. It was a classic



Stewart, having retrieved the ball from between his thighs, awaits Tufnell's thanks for dismissing Healy. Photograph: Dave Thomson

left-arm spinner's dismissal, a ball bowled from round the wicket turning and bouncing. Mark Waugh could only glove it to silly point and retreat with an aggregate for the series of only 208 runs.

Tufnell, in his thirteenth over, now boasted figures of three for 11. Already, it was a triumphant comeback, one guaranteed to send him to the Caribbean in January. Better was to come, though only after Blewett and Steve Waugh had added 44, a considerable partnership by the parlous standards of this match.

In the fifth over of the afternoon, Caddick intruded on Tufnell's private party. If his leg-bowled verdict against Waugh owed a little to generosity — the ball had a good chance of missing leg stump — it was no more than he deserved for a probing, persevering spell.

Tufnell quickly struck again, a curious dismissal but a vital one. Blewett, whose 45 remains the highest score of the game, connected with the back of the bat as he swept and Stewart took an acrobatic leg-side catch. Healy, normally perpetual motion, was now

becalm and, after making only two in 50 minutes, he seemed almost grateful to leave the stage.

The third umpire relieved him when Stewart claimed a stumping but, later in the same Tufnell over, he was once more beaten by turn and Stewart caught the edge, a shade unconvictionally, between his legs. Tufnell was now rampant, especially with a left-hander to bowl at. Shaun Young has not, thus far, had a

debut to relish but the ball that dismissed him for nought, leaping out of the rough, was close to unplayable.

If Shane Warne is ultimately the key figure of this game, it will not entirely be for his bowling. He now wielded the long handle to considerable effect, driving Tufnell straight for six in making a rapid 30. He should have been caught by Martin, who embarrassingly misjudged a skier at deep mid-wicket, but the

eight-wicket stand of 41 has assumed immense relevance.

Caddick had to be recalled to remove Warne and Kasproutz with consecutive balls but, fittingly, Tufnell finished the job. It was an appropriate ball, too, turning venomously to take the edge of Ponting's bat after a lengthy and vigilant 40.

Only the other day, Tufnell had been musing on the scarcity of receptive pitches he has had to bowl on this

summer. Certainly, he has had nothing to match this one but, while he exploited it to the full, its nature was entirely against England's preference.

They, after all, had Warne to deal with.

Ironically, however, Warne's entrance to the attack was delayed by two early successes for Kasproutz. In his fourth over, he had Atherton thick-edging to gully as he drove with the face of the bat too open. In his next, Stewart was leg-before for the second time in the match. Between them, England's two senior batsmen have totalled 525 runs in the series at a combined average of just 23, a figure that goes some way to explaining their chronic problems.

Mark Waugh, summoned to sustain play in grim light, took his first wicket of the series as Butcher missed a full toss but Hussain, grimly, and Thorpe, aggressively, prevented further loss. Warne has yet to strike, a situation that may not prevail too long into today. England need a cushion of 200 to have a realistic chance. It is hard to say where such runs could come from.

SCOREBOARD FROM THE OVAL

ENGLAND: First Innings 180 (G D McGrath 7 for 78)		AUSTRALIA: First Innings 126 (S R Waugh 34 for 2, S R Waugh 34 for 2)	
M A Butcher b M E Waugh	13	M A Taylor c Hollocombe b Tufnell	38
M A Atherton c S R Waugh b Kasproutz	8	G S Blewett c Stewart b Tufnell	45
M A J Stewart b Kasproutz	2	M E Healy c Stewart b Tufnell	19
N Hussain not out	2	S R Waugh b Caddick	22
G P Thorpe not out	22	R T Ponting c Hussain b Tufnell	40
N Hussain not out	2	H A Healy c Stewart b Tufnell	2
G P Thorpe not out	22	S Young c Stewart b Tufnell	0
N Hussain not out	2	S K Warne c Caddick	30
G P Thorpe not out	22	M S Kasproutz b Caddick	0
N Hussain not out	2	G D McGrath not out	1
G P Thorpe not out	22	E Jones not out	1
N Hussain not out	2	Extras (no 2) 1, no 5	6
G P Thorpe not out	22	Total (79.3 overs, 327mins)	216
N Hussain not out	2	FALL OF WICKETS: 1-49 (Thorpe 35), 2-54	

Wicketkeepers know there is no place to hide

Simon Barnes says Stewart's willingness to fulfil a dual role has been his undoing

Sport can make you a hero. Sport can make you a duffer, too, of course. But that is not the worst of it. Sport, more than any other public life, and perhaps cricket more than any other sport can turn a decent person into a national laughing stock. Adam Hollocombe, shouldering arms to be clean bowled on Thursday, Nasser Hussain trying to play Shane Warne and Alec Stewart keeping wicket for England yesterday.

His presence of mind in jamming thigh against thigh resulted in what must be the champagne moment of the cricketing summer. The ball, bowled by the mesmeric Phil Tufnell, flew off the edge of the bat. Alas, poor Alec — his gauntlets were not even within easy commuting distance of the ball.

But his mighty thighs did the job. The ball performed a perfect cannon shot, as in billiards, and rather after the fashion of a "Carry On" film, and before you could say "Ooh, Matron," Stewart rummaged between his two afore-

mentioned mighty thighs and produced, for all to see, a cricket ball.

This Little Jack Horner dismissal lit Stewart's face with a most perfect mixture of feelings. The man whose mother-in-law drove his

Porsche over a cliff can only begin to comprehend the battle within poor Alec, as joy fought for mastery over the most hideous embarrassment.

The trouble with being a keeper, a fraction off your game is that you still have to face every ball bowled. You can't go away to a place where the heat is off, like a butterfingers slipper. You can't go to long leg for a graze, like a bowler whose rhythm is awry. You can't lurk at the non-striker's end, like a batsman beaten three times in the previous over. You just have to squat down and take it. Or try to. And that is the horror and joy of wicketkeeping. Believe me, I have earned the right to speak with feeling on the subject.

Coming into a Test match unsure of yourself — not that Stewart had ever in recorded history admitted to such a state — the last thing a keeper needs is to spend the entire day keeping to a spinner who is doing a bit. Tufnell was doing a lot. There is a story of David Bainton brandishing his gauntlets at Derek Underwood. "You try and hit these. Dendily! Because they ain't moving anywhere."

As to Stewart's embar-

arrassment, his victim, to use the term loosely, in the thigh-nesting incident, was Ian Healy, who has had a blinding series; his batting has fed on the confidence of his stupendous performances behind the stumps.

Healy is certainly the best in the world right now. One could make a case for his being among the best ever. Certainly few things were more lovely than his stumping of Butcher off Bevan's full bumper.

A keeper on the top of his game is a fearful thing. The more certain he is of his handling, the louder he gets. A batsman knows he will not get away with a thing, a bleak and terrible feeling. Healy is so loud and so confident that you can see him smile before he catches an edge. In mid-deadly, the man is smirking.

And Alec had missed stumping Healy a couple of balls earlier. Always especially embarrassing, when you miss stumping a stumper. Then the punishment, and the ball between the thighs. Alec, a man more stumped against than stumping.

I have been unkind. Stewart is a terrific cricketer, and a wonderfully willing one. He can keep wicket too — better standing back in what people always call

"goalkeeper style", a term I always took rather literally, forever turning them round the post for byes.

Talking of willing cricketers, what about Jack Russell? A better stumper than Stewart, especially standing up, and a terrific batsman, especially when England are up against it. He would have had plenty of opportunity to exercise that talent had he been picked for this series.

As it was, Stewart has taken the gloves, and done his best. He has done his best with the bat, too. Statistics still show him to be a far better batsman when he does not keep wicket. England's shortcomings in other areas have persuaded the selectors to discard the best attacking batsman they have — Stewart as pure batsman — and the best stumper, too.

It is the role of life that winning cricketers — perhaps winning anything — tend to get dumped on from a dizzy height. Call in the Randall Syndrome. Stewart's willingness has been his undoing. A good player, always, even in his embarrassment. But he might just have been a very good batsman indeed. We shall never know.

Major conflict is purely academic

SIMON BARNES



On Saturday

FACTS are unpopular things in any argument, but when it comes to a row about sport or politics, then the person who seeks to introduce a fact is nothing less than the subject of a Bateman cartoon. The latest sporting row is also the latest political row: the British Academy of Sport, the proposed Lottery-funded multimillion-pound salvation of British sport, initially announced that it would exclude such minority interest team sports as cricket, rugby union and football. This even woke John Major from his self-imposed post-election silence and had him howling about "political spite".

Fact: all the country's national sporting bodies were asked for their thoughts on a sporting academy last year. Fact: The Test and County Cricket Board, as it then was, responded that "cricket requires its own customized facility to promote technical development at the highest level... Ideally, these should be independent of other sports". In other words, an academy is a good idea, but we don't want it unless we can have it all to ourselves.

Fact: the Rugby Football Union was even more negative. It said that it "is strongly opposed to the creation of more national training facilities over and above those already provided throughout England". Fact: there is a row because the Government is trying to do exactly what these two sporting bodies asked of them.

Hair today...

Baggio: a nation mourns. Yes, Roberto Baggio, footballer of Italy and Bologna.

nicknamed *il codino divino*, "the divine pony-tail", has cut the damn thing off. It now lies in a drawer at his home. "We are talking about a new epoch," *La Repubblica*, the Italian newspaper, said.

"We are not talking about something done out of necessity, as in the cases of Andre Agassi or Gianluca Vialli, who shaved their heads before anyone noticed they were going bald. This is something much bigger than when Ruud Gullit thinned out his dreadlocks, the pony-tail became a part of literature," Baggio said. "I was tired of having long hair." He grew the pony-tail seven years ago, when he became a Buddhist.

More on footballing affections: Luis Oliveira, that rare thing, a Brazilian footballer with two names (born in Brazil, but in fact a Belgian international) and a striker with Fiorentina, already dripping with jewelry — necklace, bracelet,

earrings — has painted his fingernails green.

Smoking drive

This column is always eager to bring you news of the latest equipment for the golfer, so I am proud to tell you about the Tee-Gar, a device for holding your cigar while you are playing your shot. It was invented by John Photakis, of Worcester, Massachusetts, and he has sold half a million of them at \$2.95 a go. Photakis kept hearing complaints from golfers who put their cigars on the ground and then became concerned about the chemicals they picked up while lying there.



Numbers game

How good a cricket captain is Michael Atherton? Or to put it another way, how bad? Here are some figures that mean well, like most figures, just about anything you want. They are the records of Test match captains who have presided over more than 15 defeats.

	P	W	L	D
A. Bardon (Aus)	23	12	28	3
M. Atherton (Eng)	11	16	11	1

Note that Atherton has the second highest wins total, and the second lowest number of defeats. His win/loss difference of minus five is also second best. All the same, it is time to get your Atherton obituary sharpened up and ready for use.

Heavenly course

Darren Beadman is one of the top jockeys in Australia.

He has won two Melbourne Cups and has been champion jockey twice. His income has been estimated at A\$1 million a year. Now he is giving it all up to become a pastor at the Christian Life Centre. "Racing is so time-consuming I couldn't do bible college at the same time," he said. "God said to me to get my priorities right."

"I knew God was preparing me for something, and then He said: 'I want you to serve me now.' He knows me. He knows that I like to give things 100 per cent. To stay in racing would have been a compromise. I couldn't give Him all my heart and soul."

Worthy support

Here is a story for anybody interested in women's chests. Bruce Mason, of the Australian Institute of Sport, has been looking into the matter of breast pain during exercise. "This is a difficult subject to raise," he said. "Almost taboo. But the fact is

that when you are exercising, pain is an indication of trauma." Up to 56 per cent of women who exercise suffer breast pain and an average breast, he said, bounces eight centimetres when its owner runs bra-less. This is reduced by 35.5 per cent with an ordinary bra, 42.5 per cent by an elastic crop top and by 35 per cent by a sports bra.

P. G.'s tip-top

One of the better cricket rows this season concerned Marlborough College, who, in their match against Radley College, refused to declare and batted on until just before 6pm, leaving Radley 18 overs to score 170. Marlborough had been irritated by the sledging of the Radley players. All sporting fixtures between the two schools have been suspended. As it happens, an almost identical situation is portrayed in a cricket story by P. G. Wodehouse, which has just been collected in what must be the cricket book of the season, *Wodehouse at the Wicket*, edited by my old friend, Murray Hedgcock.

Hedgcock's long introduction includes Wodehouse's own record as a cricketer — he was a pretty good quick bowler — and the record of the county player, Percy Jeaves. Among the treasures included, probably the best is "Reginald's Record Knock", "Reginald Humby was one of those men who go in just above the byes, and are to tired bowlers what the dew is to parched earth at the close of an August afternoon." □ The Nicolas Feuillatte Shane Warne Fitzometer at present stands at 22.

Flintoff steps into breach to stem Zimbabwe avalanche

By JOHN STERN

NORTHAMPTON (second day of four): England Under-19, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 430 runs behind Zimbabwe Under-19

AT THE very least, Zimbabwe Under-19 have proved to themselves and their opponents that they can no longer be taken lightly. However, if they are actually to win this second NatWest international and level the series, they will have to bowl considerably better than they did yesterday evening.

After declaring at 539 for five at five o'clock, having made the England bowlers look distinctly ordinary on this better of a pitch, Zimbabwe's own attack then served up an enticing diet of long-hops and full tosses. Robert Key and Stephen Peters, the England opening batsmen, took only 16 overs to progress to 109 without loss before drizzle forced the players off.

Ryan Sidebottom's first ball of the day had disappeared to

the cover boundary off the bat of Douglas Marillier, who having returned on 107, took his score to 150 before being caught at slip by Zac Morris

ZIMBABWE Under-19: First Innings

D A Marillier c Morris b Flintoff	150
A G Sibanda c Morris b Flintoff	107
M A Vermaas b R Haywood	134
M P Mavumba b Sidebottom	128
M L Nkala not out	128
A J Erasmus c Powell b Schofield	27
A G Sibanda c Morris b Flintoff	26
R C Okey not out	50
Extras (no 4) 11, no 16, no 14	41
Total (50.5 overs)	589

N. Flintoff 1-1, A. England and M. Mavumba did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 7-87, 2-88, 3-88, 4-88, 5-88

BOWLING: Marillier 17-1-75-0, Schofield 25-7-91-1, Haywood 15-6-30-1, Sibanda 12-5-19-0, Schofield 37-3-8-127-1, Powell 31-8-128-1, Morris 61-4-6-0, Flintoff 33-0-1.

ENGLAND Under-19: First Innings

S D Peters not out	81
R W Trew not out	48
Total (no wicket)	109

G R Haywood, A Flintoff, Z C Morris, G P Smith, T C R M Reed, C Schofield, J C Powell, W D Martin and R J Schofield to bat.

BOWLING: Shyn 4-0-28-0, Mavumba 4-0-30-0, Erasmus 4-0-30-0, Vermaas 4-0-21-0, Okey 11-0-11-0, Flintoff 3-0-1.

Umpires: M D Bird and N T Pines.

Lara ready to return

WARWICKSHIRE are confident that Brian Lara will be back at Edgbaston next season.

The record-breaking West Indies batsman played for the county in 1994 when he helped them to win the county championship, the Benson and Hedges Cup and the Sunday League.

Warwickshire officials are keen to complete the arrangements for Lara's return as soon as possible. Stewart Dalrymple, the commercial direc-

tor, said: "We are 99 per cent confident of getting Brian back next season."

"We are just waiting on the West Indies Cricket Board. We have talked to Brian and his agent and we are happy that we have reached an agreement with them."

"But what we need is some commitment from the West Indies Cricket Board when he is actually going to be available because this season ends just as ours is beginning."

off Andrew Flintoff's medium pace just before lunch.

Flintoff, the England captain, used to be a genuine all-rounder but a back injury has theoretically terminated his bowling aspirations. However, much of England's bowling was so lamentable that Flintoff found himself unable to resist the temptation to enter the attack. He allowed himself only three overs but he took Marillier's wicket and did not concede a run in the process.

Neil Martin, of Middlesex, had a terrible time, unable to find rhythm or direction. As a result, his 17 overs cost 76 runs. Flintoff apart, the only England bowler to find anything approaching an acceptable line or length was Giles Haywood, from Sussex, whose main role in this game was to bat at No 3.

His outswingers, although looking gentle enough, provided the Zimbabwean batsmen with some of their more difficult exercises, and he had Mark Vermaas leg-before stumping across his stumps in the first over after lunch.

Vermaas had made an excellent 134 from 292 balls with 27 fours, his century arriving with one of three fours he took from the fourth over of the day, bowled by Jonathan Powell, the Essex off-spinner.

The pace of the runnings slowed for a while but Molekile Nkize, 16, picked it up again with an unbeaten century that took Zimbabwe beyond their desired target of 500. He also took a share to Powell, polling him for two sixes.

CRICKET

Ealham and Cowdrey keep Kent in hunt

By IVO TENNANT

TAUNTON (third day of four): Somerset, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 23 runs behind Kent.

FOR a side intent on winning the Britannic Assurance championship, Kent have not come up with the requisite number of runs from their upper order this season. Yesterday, though, Graham Cowdrey made his first century of the summer, moodily batting with Mark Ealham who struck 105. They put on 183 in 50 overs, bringing about a first-innings lead before taking one Somerset wicket before the close.

It was, too, a partnership between a Kentish Man and a Man of Kent, in a largely home-grown side. In a season in which he has been hampered by injury and the distraction of taking a benefit (which is going markedly well) Cowdrey has had his excuses for not making as many runs as he would have liked, although he would not think in those terms. He played and missed a good deal at the start of his innings, which was never other than thoroughly dogged.

Ealham, by contrast, is in some form. This was his third championship century of the season, reached with a clumped six over mid-wicket off Herberg, a one-time county colleague. He did not look like he could read Mushtaq Ahmed, just as evidently he found Shane Warne hard to pick this summer in the cauldron of Test cricket. But then who does not?

It is axiomatic that this was an invaluable partnership for Kent, who were looking to return to the top of the championship table. When Ealham came in, they were struggling somewhat at 121 for four. Smith, unbeaten with 45

overnight, reached the first of what should be many half-centuries for his county, but shortly afterwards was caught off bat and paid off Mushtaq. He had struck nine fours.

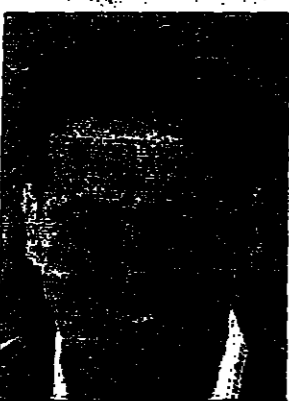
There was still some life in the pitch, but the extent to which Ealham's Somerset attack can be gauged from the analyses of his two opening bowlers. Van Troost and Shine had 19 overs between them, did not manage a maiden and conceded 120 runs. Even then, Herberg was not brought on until the last over, before lunch, a stereotypical act of captaincy. So Mushtaq was over-bowled, although that would not have been for the first time.

He eventually broke the significant partnership, but Kent were looking to gain a first-innings lead by then. Cowdrey, who drove to mid-off, struck 12 fours and faced, in reaching his century, 185 balls. His previous highest score of the season was 53 in Kent's victory over Essex in Canterbury week, so this was as important to him as it was to his side. He and Ealham, whose century was achieved in marginally better time, with 13 fours and that six, ran exceptionally well between the wickets.

Few were as quick on a cricket field as Alan Ealham, but his son, who has the added responsibility of having to bowl, would have been a match for him now. After he was out, misjudging one from Herberg which turned and hit his off stump, Fleming came in and struck a half-century in his characteristically efficient way. He chose to walk when he was caught at the wicket down the leg side. The umpire, Alan Whitehead, did not give him out.

Herberg took a third wicket through bowling Phillips, whereupon McCague came in and made his first notable contribution to the match, striking four fours. When Strang was held off a skier to cover, Kent had gained a lead of 74. In the 16 overs that remained, they removed Turner, a century-maker in the first innings, caught at the wicket playing defensively at Phillips.

McCague did not take the field after his innings. He has a back problem, even though he bowled only 13 balls on Wednesday before he was removed from the attack. It will be looked at today.



Ealham: fine form



Foster, who excelled with bat and ball for Durham, drives another four on his way to 70 not out yesterday

Middlesex keep Nash in reserve

By ALASTAIR STORIE

CHESTER-LE-STREET (third day of four): Durham, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 120 runs ahead of Middlesex.

DURHAM, who have managed one draw and four defeats in first-class cricket against Middlesex, yesterday reversed the roles and had the visitors fighting to stave off the follow-on.

At 133 for seven and still requiring 61, Middlesex's fears were allayed by David Nash, 19, the reserve wicketkeeper, who in his first championship innings scored a compact 94 from 180 balls, and Richard Johnson, who made 39. Nash hit nine fours, a bizarre six, which combined a run single and five penalty runs for the ball striking Speight's abandoned glove on return.

Durham felt seven short of their first haul of maximum batting points since June last year, and in doing so lost the services of their most influential bowler, Simon Brown, who bruised his left hand fending off a steeping ball from Johnson. The loss was significant since Durham's other three seam bowlers, well as they performed, could not sustain the pressure throughout the day.

Apart from Gatting, who received a perfect leg-cutter from Betts, the Middlesex batsmen were to a man

complicit in their own downfall. The pitch displayed some uneven bounce and required someone with technical proficiency to become entrenched.

Pooley, however, padded up to the first ball of the innings and Shah drove a looser from Foster to mid-off. Foster, who had earlier finished on 70 with the bat, then tempted Kallis into a forcing shot and Brown into the hook. Weekes did little to ease the ensuing crisis by dragging a ball from Walker on to his stumps while driving expansively.

Nash, though, played with composure beyond his years and combined linear defence with well-timed, wristy leg-side strokes. He made his debut at Fenners' earlier this year and with his combined abilities he will be a real asset to his club in the future.

Thoughts of a century on his championship debut grew as Fraser lent stout defiance and encouragement for the last wicket. With a declaration imminent, however, he chanced his arm once too often and provided Bowling with his third wicket.

Middlesex must win this match to sustain any championship challenge, but this appears to be likely only if Durham approach their second innings today with that same attitude and permit them a run chase in the afternoon.

Robinson back to his cautious best

By RICHARD HOBSON

WORKSOP (third day of four): Essex, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 99 runs ahead of Nottinghamshire.

NOT since his days as a callow youth attempting to catch the eye of Clive Rice has Tom Robinson endured as lean a summer as this. That somebody else will finish at the Nottinghamshire batting averages seems unthinkable and, after 13 successive innings without a 50, it was understandable if his right to place in the side was under question when he walked out to bat yesterday.

"Crisis? What crisis?" Robinson might well have asked. His response was typical. This is not to say that he fled the Essex attack, for his pragmatic method is a triumph of function over flair.

There are times when he might be wearing blinkers rather than a helmet. A paradigm of caution, he simply waited for the balls he wanted to hit, worked them into the areas of his choice and ignored the rest.

The result was his first century of 1997, a chanceless affair, in 275 minutes from 244 balls and with 14 fours. Most of those boundaries were either pulled in textbook manner or steered wide of the fielding cordon on the off-side. It was like watching the man who scored a brace of Test

hundreds against Australia in 1985, the last time England won the Ashes at home.

He has developed a particular fondness for the Essex attack and could not have wished for a flatter pitch on which to recover his form. After Napier had removed Downman leg-before on the back foot with the eighth ball of his debut, Robinson put on 193 in 59 overs with Nathan Aspin, who eventually fell for the second time this season on 100.

It was not quite the hare and the tortoise, though from an entertainment viewpoint one would not wish for a Robinson at each end.

Asle timed the ball as sweetly as anybody hitherto and raised his century by pulling Such for six to add to his 16 fours. He batted for 169 minutes before he drove Cowan weakly towards cover, where Danny Law held the chance at the second attempt.

Johnson embellished the innings with 41 from 40 balls and declared 89 runs in arrears of 351 for three when he holed to Grayson after Nottinghamshire had secured a fourth batting point. Such a gesture suggests that he feels the surface will not crumble and assist the spinners, as is the norm here.

If Prichard, his Essex counterpart, agrees, he will face a stiff fourth-innings target this afternoon.

Illingworth leads the way with another century

By JACK BAILEY

EDGBASTON (third day of four): Warwickshire, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 168 runs behind Worcestershire.

RICHARD ILLINGWORTH duly scored the 24 runs he needed to complete the fourth century of his career — his third as nightwatchman — and Graeme Hick, who is more used to this kind of thing, made one too. Together, they added 239 for the third Worcestershire wicket, having set out on their long journey late on Wednesday evening with their team's score standing at nine for two and the Warwickshire bowlers rampant.

Two days later Warwickshire were looking at a deficit of 196 and wore the faded look of a side who knew their chances of victory had receded almost beyond recall. Tom Moody and Steven Rhodes had insured that the good work of Hick and Illingworth was not wasted. Moody had just become Worcestershire's third and fastest century-maker and Warwickshire had been batted out of the game.

Missed chances had cost Warwickshire dear on Thursday and continued to haunt them yesterday. Only six overs had been bowled when Illingworth, having added five to his overnight 76, was put down by Welch at second slip off Brown. Slowly, if unsurely, Illingworth plodded on.

He spent seven overs on 99, but reached his century before Hick reached his. When taken behind the wicket, he had batted for six hours and 20 minutes.

Hick lingered even longer for his 122. His fifth century of the season contained his thousandth run and it was the 95th century of his career. He had been subdued, watchful as later seen on TV, lucky to get away with a disputed catch on Thursday; but his had been an invaluable innings, taking the heart out of Warwickshire's attack.

Hick reached his century in the grand manner with a long, straight six, his bat held aloft in acknowledgement before the ball sailed over the boundary.

Moody was magnificent — to start with at any rate. He was soon taking four successive fours off Bell's medium-paced seamers. Nor, some three hours later, did he hang around in the nervous 90s. He went from 90 to 100 with a four and a six off successive balls. It was his first championship century of the season and, with the pitch showing signs of wear and tear, it could not have come at a better time for Worcestershire's championship hopes.

Yorkshire delayed as former players entertain

By DEREK HODGKIN

SCARBOROUGH (third day of four): Yorkshire (22pts) beat Sussex (4) by nine wickets.

SUSSEX, 41 for six overnight and still 84 behind, at least died in a shoot-out, like Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, played on this occasion by Paul Jarvis and Mark Robinson. In an impossible position when rain arrived on Thursday afternoon, they attacked on a fine clear morning, forcing Yorkshire to bat again, needing 13, and claiming Anthony McGrath's wicket to force the contest into the afternoon.

A good Yorkshire crowd — admission was free — loved it all. This was a plot with the right ending, a comprehensive win, with the odd twist and turn involving two former Tykes, Jarvis and Robinson, both of whom were applauded to and from the wicket as if they were still wearing the white rose. In all this the rest of the Sussex team were no more than spear-carriers.

Jarvis laid about him for eight fours in his fourth half-century of the season. Justin Bates proving an able partner, the pair adding 33 in eight overs before Paul Hitchison, who was presented with his second XI cap on the field, performed his now familiar trick of persuading the batsman to play for outswinging at a ball that straightened. Jarvis added another 21 with Amer Khan, lashing into Chris Silverwood, before Craig White took two wickets in three overs to, seemingly, wrap it up.

But there was still Robinson, who rallied Alex Edwards into believing that respect could still be won, the final pair adding another 27. McGrath's fall, driving at Edwards, meant that Yorkshire had to lunch on the brink. These points do take them to fourth place and, had they beaten Hampshire, as they should have in the previous match, they would now be strong contenders.

They do play two of the challengers, Worcestershire and Kent, on the unpredictable Headingley square and are away to dangerous struggles, Lancashire and Derbyshire. If they can win at Old Trafford in their next match and if Darren Gough, still under treatment on his left knee, returns to form and fitness, listen for the distant drums.

Sussex are clearly in the throes of deep self-analysis and must have noted Michael Bevan's reported remark yesterday that he would "play for anybody next year but Yorkshire". If he does return to another county next summer, their match against Yorkshire should be worth watching.

Waqar's ambitions gathering pace

By SIMON WILDE

ABERGAVENNY (third day of four): Northamptonshire, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 122 runs ahead of Glamorgan.

WHEN the Principality calls on sporting saviours it expects them to provide. Viv Richards gave Glamorgan a trophy and was suitably relieved — he went down on his knee in the Canterbury pavilion when they won the Axa Equity & Law League four years ago — and Waqar Younis knows that anything less than the championship this year means that he will have failed in his mission.

He indicated as much yesterday with one of his best spells — if not the best — of the season at a crucial stage of a match. Vital to his team's hopes. On a pitch as flat, lifeless and dry as those in his native Pakistan, he bowled wonderfully to break the back of the Northamptonshire second innings after Matthew Maynard, his captain, put the ball back into his opponents' court by declaring 24 runs ahead.

Maynard was probably thinking more in terms of leaving open the possibility of a run-chase today than dismissing Northamptonshire cheaply, but that changed as Waqar and Watkins, refreshed by a 90-minute afternoon break for rain, reduced them to 61 for five. Waqar, operating to a searching off-stump line and swinging the ball away late, claimed three wickets in the space of eight balls. His movement meant that there was little that Warren and Bailey, his first two vic-

tims, could do to save themselves. Warren was caught by Maynard diving to his right at second slip, Bailey caught at the wicket to his sixth ball. The downfall of Curran, the first-innings century-maker, was less excusable. He fell into a carefully laid trap by carving his fifth ball into the hands of fly slip.

Bailey's wicket gave Waqar his fifteenth first-class victim of the season, a landmark he achieved in each of his three summers with Surrey. Waqar's quibbled form has been a disappointment, to some, when he arrived the talk was more of him topping 100 wickets than 50 — but this was fine bowling in unpromising circumstances.

Either side of Waqar's burst, Watkins removed Roberts and Fordham via miscued pulls. Fordham's dismissal completed by a fine, low catch by Evans, but as Glamorgan strove for a sixth wicket their fielding let them down and, with Sales and Ripley determined to hit their way out of trouble and surviving more through luck than good judgment, Northamptonshire's lead took on challenging proportions.

Glamorgan will not want to chase more than 250 today, especially as Maynard left the field late in the day with a badly dislocated right index finger after missing a sharp chance in the slips. He went to hospital for an X-ray and may be unavailable today. His importance to his side was clear when they batted on in the morning. Of the 122 runs enterprisingly added in 85 minutes, he contributed 58.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Britannic Assurance county championship		
Durham v Middlesex		
CHESTER-LE-STREET (third day of four): Durham, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 120 runs ahead of Middlesex.		
DURHAM: First Innings		
J J Lewis bow to Kallis	38	
S Watson c Brown b Johnson	20	
J E Moore c Gatting b Johnson	20	
D C Brown c Westlake b Kallis	110	
N M Speight c Gatting b Kallis	9	
R M S Watson c Gatting b Kallis	36	
M J Foster c Kallis b Johnson	70	
M J Bates c Shaw b Durrant	1	
J Belling c Brown b Fraser	7	
S J E Brown b Fraser	1	
A Walker not out	32	
Extras (b 7, lb 5, w 2, nb 18)	32	
Total (108.5 overs)	343	
MIDDLESEX: First Innings		
J J Lewis bow to Kallis	38	
S Watson c Brown b Johnson	20	
J E Moore c Gatting b Johnson	20	
D C Brown c Westlake b Kallis	110	
N M Speight c Gatting b Kallis	9	
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M J Foster c Kallis b Johnson	70	
M J Bates c Shaw b Durrant	1	
J Belling c Brown b Fraser	7	
S J E Brown b Fraser	1	
A Walker not out	32	
Extras (b 7, lb 5, w 2, nb 18)	32	
Total (108.5 overs)	343	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-38, 3-43, 4-131, 5-208, 6-250, 7-285, 8-328, 9-338		
BOWLING: Fraser 26-7-56-2; Hewitt 15-2-89-0; Kallis 21-6-68-4; Johnson 21-3-4-53-2; Durrant 16-2-34-1; Westlake 8-2-0-10-2		
Second Innings		
J J Lewis not out	14	
S Watson not out	14	
Extras (b 7, lb 5, w 2, nb 18)	32	
Total (60.5 overs)	59	
BOWLING: Fraser 5-2-0-0; Johnson 1-0-4-0; Durrant 3-0-18-0		
Middlesex v Glamorgan		
ABERGAVENNY (third day of four): Northamptonshire, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 122 runs ahead of Glamorgan.		
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First Innings 330		
R M Watson c Fordham b Waqar		
A Fordham c Evans b Waqar		
D J Bailey c Shaw b Waqar		
R M Curran c James b Waqar		
D J Bailey not out		
R M Curran not out		
Extras (b 4, lb 4, w 2, nb 18)		
Total (61.5 overs)		
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-18, 3-42, 4-78, 5-94, 6-107, 7-132, 8-211, 9-228		
BOWLING: Waqar 21-10-51-2; Foster 15-4-58-4; Walker 16-4-48-1; Bowling 21-5-72-3; Boon 2-0-0-0		
Bonus points: Durham 7 Middlesex 6		
Umpires: B Dudson and M J Nathan		
Glamorgan v Northamptonshire		
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FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Wanderer in wonder of his world

How Roberto Di Matteo made himself at home in the King's Road with the style only an Italian can fashion

Gianfranco Zola is one of the first to take his leave. He raises his forearm in a wave of farewell to his teammates and heads towards the double doors. At the rows of trestle tables in the canteen, the voices of the Chelsea footballers rise and fall in animated banter and bouts of exuberant laughter. Still there is no sign of Roberto Di Matteo.

Soon, Ruud Gullit, the manager, is saying his goodbyes, too, performing an impromptu little dance as he goes, his hands high in the air, his hips wiggling, the catcalls of the last players who are still eating their lunch in the aftermath of the Wednesday morning training session ringing in his ears. The autograph-hunters are long gone now and outside some apprentices are tearing around with a ball, showing off their fancy skills. A few minutes later, Di Matteo strolls out of a changing-room into the sunlight. He had been one of the last off the pitch a couple of hours earlier, curling and dipping free kicks over a wall of cardboard cut-outs past a helpless Ed de Goey. Now, pushing himself to be fit for the game tomorrow at Barnsley, where Chelsea will try to get their championship challenge off the ground after their woeful start at Coventry City a fortnight ago, he is the last away from the gymnasium, too.

He looks like one of the good guys from an Elmore Leonard novel as he walks, tanned and Miami-cool. The sunglasses are missing but a smart, casual shirt with an understated floral pattern hangs down over his khaki shorts and he is nursing over a letter. More than any of his compatriots that play in the FA Carling Premiership, he is the epitome of Latin chic, as elegant and assured on the pitch as he is off it.

Things are just about as good as they can get for Di Matteo. He is a fixture in Cesare Maldini's Italy team and is still basking in the glory of the 35-yard drive that cannoned into the Middlesbrough net off the crossbar in the first minute of the FA Cup Final last season and set Chelsea on their way to their first leading trophy for 26 years.

After a year getting used to his new surroundings, after his 54.9 million move from Lazio last summer, he is revelling in London life, taking pleasure in observing the minutiae of existence in the capital, like the way commuters on the Underground stand on the right if they want to stay still as they travel up the escalators, on the left if they want to hurry.

As someone who spent much of his formative years outside Italy, mainly in his parents' adopted home in German-speaking Switzerland, he lives his life here with an immigrant's eye, stimulated by everything around him, feeding off it and gaining inspiration from it rather than being weighed down by it. "In London," he said, "I can walk around like everyone else. I am just a man walking around. Even if people recognise me, they say 'hello' and maybe they ask for a signature but you can live your life and do normal things. In Rome, there was no escape. You were a footballer and that was it. They do not look at you as a person. You are not a person there, you are just a player. It was not easy."

"I just like everything about London. We get so much more privacy here for one thing. Perhaps it is because the people are a bit more reserved than in Italy and they are almost afraid to make contact with you. But they are kind, too, when you need help. It is a great city for young people, too. It seems to be a city that lives 24 hours a day. It never stops."

"You see many different things, many different cultures, you learn how other



Di Matteo has made reaching the top of his profession his goal, in the FA Carling Premiership with Chelsea and for his country, Italy, after years of struggling against the prejudices of immigrant life

people live. I just like to walk around and observe people, how they move, how they speak, just to have more experience of this culture. Sometimes I like to go to nightclubs. Just sometimes. When I go once, that is enough for a long time."

Beneath the chiselled features and the snappy, expensive clothes, Di Matteo, 27, is a gentle, softly-spoken man, someone who has known adversity in life, has battled successfully to triumph over it and is the more serene for the achievement.

It began with racial abuse when he was growing up in Switzerland, the son of an immigrant worker, an olive-skinned boy in the country near Schaffhausen, and continued as he struggled to get his professional career off the ground.

He played for two seasons at Schaffhausen before injury wrecked his third and in 1991 he moved on to FC Zurich, where he played 34 games and scored six goals. From there, he was transferred to SC Aarau before he got the move he and his parents had wanted, back to Italy with Lazio.

Even there, though, his troubles did not end. He spent three seasons with the Rome club under the austere management of the Czech, Zdenek Zeman, a dour disciplinarian who put the emphasis on stamina in training and discouraged Di Matteo from

OLIVER HOLT



pursuing one of his principal strengths, his ability to break swiftly from midfield into attack.

He made his debut for the national side that first season, under Arrigo Sacchi, but fell foul of Zeman soon after when he took a day off training after an international. Zeman made his criticism public and some supporters went to Di Matteo's home and destroyed his entry phone and postbox.

Things went from bad to worse and, when Di Matteo eventually left for Chelsea, some supporters spat at the taxi he was travelling in as it sped away from the office of the Lazio owner, Sergio

Craggioni, after the deal had been signed.

It is ironic then, that things have improved so much for Di Matteo since he left his homeland. The bad times appear to have left him a happily unflappable character who can appreciate when life is sweet, who is not fazed by anything.

The thing that touches him closest perhaps, is the fact that his sister, Concetta, is blind. "Sometimes I feel guilty," he said, "because I have had the fortune to do what I want to do, to earn a lot of money, to be famous and other things that my sister does not have because she is blind and she does not have the fortune. It is hard, because you always have this inside you but I cannot change it, so I go on and try to do my best. Life has to go on."

He is the sort of player who deserves the success he is enjoying now, the sort who takes nothing for granted and works for his achievements. He admits he took a gamble when he left Rome for west London, that friends told him he might never be picked for Italy again. But his performances have ensured otherwise and he is almost certain to line up against England in Rome on October 11 when the two countries meet in the likely showdown for first place in the World Cup European qualifying group two.

If Zola and Vialli, for different reasons, grabbed most of

the headlines last season, Di Matteo was a consistent force of creativity and industry in midfield and finished the season on the highest note possible, breaking from his own half in the FA Cup Final and unleashing that unstoppable shot to break Middlesbrough's resistance almost before the game had started.

This season, after the arrival of Gustavo Poyet from Real Zaragoza, he is likely to play on the left side of midfield, lighting up games with his daring runs and his quick, incisive through-balls. Despite that opening-day defeat at Coventry, he is, typically, optimistic about the season ahead. "We were so disappointed after Coventry," Di Matteo said, "We could not believe it."

But I think we will finish very high this season. I do not know if we are going to win the championship but we will challenge the top teams. It is not too early for us to do it, even though we have new players. We have a team that can win the League but it depends on many details.

"For me, I think I hope that I can play even better this season than last season. I try to improve every day at football and I think we have better players now. We have a good team and a good spirit here."

Off the pitch, when he is not studying the mores of the English, he tries to find time to indulge his love of the cinema and eats at quiet restaurants near his Kensington home with a small band of Italian and English friends. He likes his life so much here that he hardly misses Italy.

"It is difficult for me," he said, "because there are so many things I want to do but I just don't have the time. When you are playing three games a week, it is very hard for the body to recover and you have to rest a lot. I just like to go out to restaurants with my friends to chat. I make sure that I enjoy my life."

Goals such as the one against Middlesbrough help, of course, but he said that has changed nothing save, perhaps, that people recognise him a little quicker in the street. He has learnt not to seek happiness in ephemeral things and his happiness is redoubled. Bob Dylan claimed once that he pined for the poor immigrant. If he had met Roberto Di Matteo, he might never have written the song.

Scottish football adjusts to unexpected delights

Rest will play when Old Firm is away

BY KEVIN MCCARRA

AN IMPOSTOR can sometimes be received with gratitude. The present spell that is attempting to pass itself off as a Scottish football season is a transparent fiction.

The names and addresses of the participants might seem to be in order, but discrepancies are obvious as soon as closer inspection is made. Clubs that are known to be dreary are now conducting themselves in the most flamboyant manner.

Normal, tedious service may eventually be resumed, but the present series of bizarre events is flowing through Scottish football like a refreshing stream in a parched landscape. Kilmarnock can never have anticipated that they would be travelling to Easter Road this afternoon searching for some sort of solace after a 6-2 defeat by Stirling Albion in the Coca-Cola Cup.

It is part of the comfortable thrall against the sport north of the border that there should always be grumbles over its predictable nature. Now, those grumpy voices are stifled, for the blessings of the unexpected can hardly be asked to take a more substantial form than the thrashing of the Tannets Scottish Cup holders by one of the humbler members of the Bell's Scottish League first division.

While Kilmarnock may be dumbstruck, others in Scottish football are only just starting to find their voices. The idea that the entertainment matters more than the result may seem woefully naïve, but that principle received the most robust endorsement on Wednesday. The Hibernian supporters had seen their team beaten 2-1 by Dundee United on Wednesday, with an equal-

iser in injury time and a sloppy winner conceded soon after. Even the chance of an equaliser was spurned, when Chic Charnley's penalty zoomed over the bar.

The visiting fans might have been expected to be smashing windows and picking fights, but they dealt calmly with the result as they made their way out of Tannadice. Even in disappointment, they could not ignore the fine football being played by their team.

Against United, Hibernian had opened the scoring with a sumptuous goal and such a piece of artifice no longer comes as a shock, given that the club holds the lead in the premier division. The prominence of the Easter Road side, of course, owes something to the low profile being adopted by the Old Firm.

Celtic, under new management, have rendered themselves unobtrusive by losing and a third defeat at St Johnstone this afternoon, would constitute the worst beginning to a League season in the club's history. Rangers simply have not been playing. Today, they enter only their second League match, when they face Dundee United at Ibrox. Although the Old Firm have been absent, the boisterousness of the past few weeks is not just that of a class whose intimidating teacher has left the room. Clubs, as if tiring of their dour ways, appear to be attempting stylish football.

Last Saturday saw Dunfermline Athletic defeat Celtic, 2-1, while also missing many chances. On the other side of Scotland, Heart of Midlothian, and Aberdeen were concocting a tantalising match, won 4-1 by the Edinburgh side. If this season is to be viewed as some form of counterfeiting, it is an imitation of far more worth than the genuine article.

Past wins cut no ice with McGhee

DERBY matches generate intense rivalry among the local populace and nowhere will that be better illustrated than when West Bromwich Albion take on Wolverhampton Wanderers at The Hawthorns in the Nationwide League first division tomorrow (Russell Kempson writes). The respective supporters share a mutual dislike, tribal instincts will be to the fore.

Wolves twice got the better of their Black Country neighbours last season, but Mark McGhee, their manager, does not believe that the 2-0 and 4-2 victories will hold any relevance this time around. "I don't think there will be goals galore again, but it should be an open game," he said. "They will want to come at us and take

the early initiative and we'll be playing the same way. "It is always a game to savour, something to really look forward to, and it gives the fans a chance, if their team has won, to go 'help work on Monday morning with their heads held high.'"

West Bromwich have been preparing in a low-key manner. John Treweek, the first-team coach, said: "We haven't even mentioned the fact that we're playing Wolves. Sure, it's a big game, there's a bit of added spice to it, but we've tried to play it down. We just want our players to concentrate."

Each side is unbeaten in three league and cup outings this season, with Wolves yet to concede a goal.



Di Matteo, left, and Zola, his team-mate and compatriot, celebrate the breathtaking goal that put Chelsea on the way to lifting the FA Cup, their first leading trophy for 26 years

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Continuing his series on the Premiership new boys, Mark Hodgkinson meets the man who has chronicled Barnsley's fortunes for 37 years

A fan who really makes headlines

Life on a local newspaper is often fraught. There is invariably a reader at the reception desk grumbling that his daughter has been mistakenly married to the best man, or that the golden wedding couple had their honeymoon in Scarborough, not Cleethorpes. They hate Cleethorpes. It always rains when they go there, the shops are awful, damn it, they had their first row in Cleethorpes.

There are very few free lunches, both metaphorically and literally, for the diligent scribes that amass column inches under the watchful, sensitive eye of their own community. So, when the man from *The Chronicle* calls at the *Barnsley Chronicle*, promising the wonderful delights of chicken in a basket *et al.*, one might expect a "Yes please, make mine a turkey in a hamper" response. Think again, for this is Barnsley, home of the pragmatist. "No, thanks. I always bring sandwiches on Mondays," is the "Made in Barnsley" response from Keith Lodge, the sports editor.

Lodge has spent 37 years at the *Chronicle* and has covered Barnsley Football Club throughout this time, from the old fourth division to the FA Carling Premiership, Hartlepool United to Arsenal, Eric Winstanley to Georgi Hristov. He

had originally hoped to pull on a Barnsley shirt, a goalkeeper's as it happens, but after training with the club as a youth he decided instead to write about it and became a reporter on his home-town newspaper.

Rather like the club, Lodge has suddenly found himself a conspicuous figure since he is Barnsley FC's most trusted and reliable messenger. He has missed just four matches, home and away, in the past 20 years and his expert knowledge is shamelessly mined by his peers in the press box.

The *Chronicle* is based in a sunny office in Church Street, a pleasant stroll away from the impressive Town Hall. Lodge has not yet had time to eat his sandwiches, but kindly assents to another interview about his beloved Barnsley. He is dressed conservatively — neat shirt, plain tie, pen in pocket. He wears metal-rimmed glasses and, appropriately enough, a Michael Parkinson haircut. He is friendly, but wary.

LIFE AT THE TOP



He has not been best-pleased by the way that Barnsley has been portrayed over the past few weeks.

His report on their opening game, against West Ham United, was an unequivocal broadside to his colleagues from the national press. He bemoans the caricature of the Barnsley fan "Clog-clomping down the cobbled streets". "It's of no relevance, all that stuff," he said. "We've had an awful lot of coverage and I think a good deal of it has been patronising."

Many have pondered on a source of Barnsley's success, though few have the benefit of Lodge's antecedence: he remembers going to watch them when attendance was sometimes below 2,000. "It's down to Danny Wilson [the manager] and the tremendous support he has had from the board," Lodge said. "He has worked his socks off for the club and I think his man-management is superb. I like Danny. He is

Lodge has used the *Chronicle* to defend his beloved Barnsley against patronising coverage from other parts of the media

an informal chap. You can always knock on his door."

Lodge has worked long hours filling pages of news of Barnsley's fortunes, helped by his son, Andrew, who is also a sports reporter on the paper, and his sister, Sheila, a part-time employee. The paper has rightly recognised that these

days are half-on and it sings the town's delight on every page. Amid this rarefied Premiership air, the *Chronicle's* sub-editors have dreamt some fanciful dreams, hence bizarre headlines such as, "How Psycho Found God" and "Fancy That: A Turbo-pigeon".

When the fixtures were announced earlier in the summer, Lodge was aware that he would have to miss the game that fell on October 25. As a member of the North Gawber choir, he was due to perform at the Royal Albert Hall.

Manchester United at Old Trafford," Lodge laughed. The choir will now be one voice down on the day. It was a game that he could not miss.

There will be other unmissable games, starting with the visit of Chelsea tomorrow. Fancy that: a turbo-powered season.

Bastin sets Arsenal goal standard

There are, as we know, lies, damned lies and statistics. We also know that comparisons are odious.

In the case of Ian Wright, Cliff Bastin, and their goals for Arsenal, they are surely irrelevant.

Notionally, Wright needs only a couple of goals to overhaul Bastin's record of 178. But apart from a couple in that non-event, the FA Charity Shield, all Bastin's goals came in just two tournaments: the old first division (150) and the FA Cup (26).

In these two tournaments, Wright so far has scored just 133 goals, 121 of them in the championship. Still far behind Bastin's total.

In Bastin's day, neither the Football League Cup, in its various guises, nor the European tournament existed. Wright's striking rate is quite exceptional, but where is the valid analogy? (We might even add to Bastin's total the two he scored for Arsenal against Austria at Highbury in 1933.)

I should declare an interest. As a teenager, I "ghosted" Bastin's autobiography, *Cliff Bastin Remembers*, which was something of a success at the time.

It was hardly meant to be. I had intended it very much as a homage, an act of piety, to a great player who, it seemed to me as a 17-year-old Arsenal fan and burgeoning journalist, deserved a book as much as such other Titans, such as his team-mate, Eddie Hapgood, Tommy Lawton and Frank Swift.

Having frequently passed the Cliff Bastin café on the North Circular Road, I wrote to him and received an answer, thanking me for "your glowing tribute to my career". He had, he said, had a proposal for such a book, but the publishers had planned to sell it for a shilling, which

Wright still has some way to go before he passes the real club record at Highbury

BRIAN GLANVILLE



seemed a bit of an insult. So began my Sunday evening visits to his flat above the café, where his wife regaled us with strong tea and thick cheese sandwiches. Saturday mornings were spent looking up what Bastin did not remember in the British Museum Newspaper Library at Colindale.

His was a stunning career, only to be blighted at the end by the increasing deafness about which he was so sensitive and which would keep him out of the war.

A Devonian, he was a schoolboy international inside forward, playing for Exeter City at 15. Herbert Chapman, who became his mentor and father figure, persuaded him to join

Arsenal at 17 in 1929, turning him into a left winger, partnered by another new-comer, the legendary Scotland inside left, Alex James.

It was in the FA Cup Final of 1930, against Huddersfield Town, Chapman's old club, that Bastin took a very quick, controversial free kick and James scored the first Arsenal goal. Six years later, again at Wembley, it was from Bastin's cross that Ted Drake scored the winner against Sheffield United.

In the 1932-33 season, one of Arsenal and Bastin's five pre-war championship-winning campaigns, he scored an astonishing 33 goals, all from the left wing.

Quiet, introverted and reserved, never immodest, but wholly convinced of his own stature, Bastin's detachment paid off on the field, when nothing seemed to upset him.

Not even the violent behaviour of the Italians in the notorious Battle of Highbury in November 1934, when England, fielding seven Arsenal men, were so shamelessly maltreated. Bastin assured me that he had played in rougher games.

At 19, he had won every honour in the game and, 21 times capped, he became an outstanding England player, more often at inside rather than outside left.

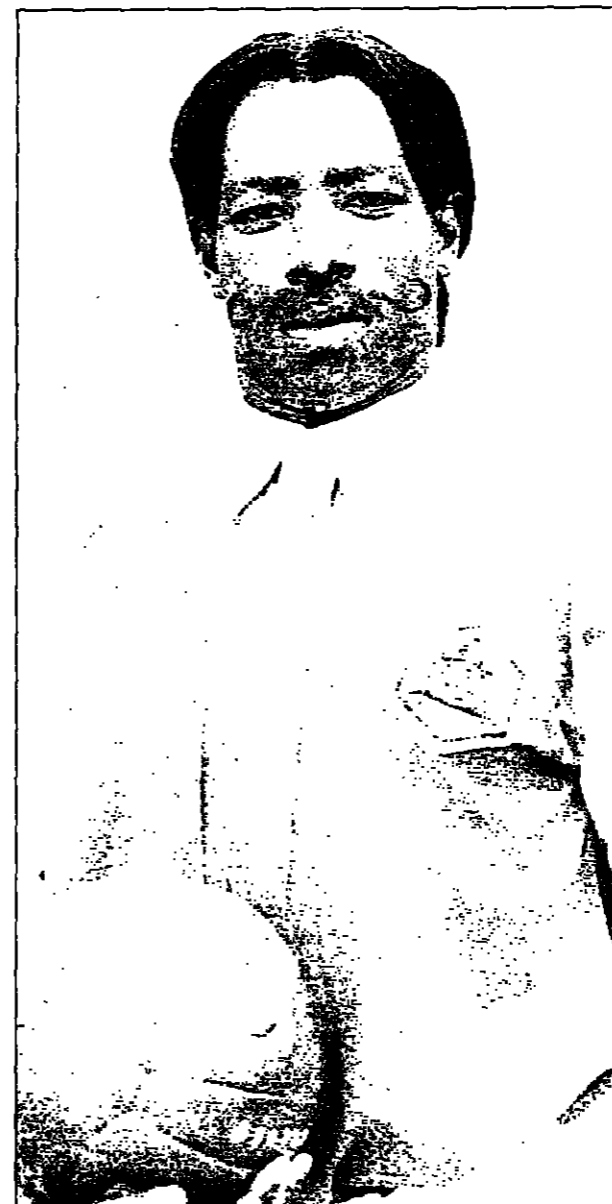
He had skill, he had pace, he had an explosive left foot. Just before the 1934 World Cup finals, Hugo Meisl, the inspiration of the Austria "Wunderteam", said that his right side had no hope of winning, but, if he could have just one player, win it would. That player? "Bastin," he said.

Bastin's arrival at Highbury was not propitious. At the main entrance, he was stopped by a constabulary, who asked him



Wright is dressed to rub shoulders with such revered company as Bastin, left, who scored more league goals for Arsenal

what he wanted. Bastin replied that he wanted to join the other Arsenal players. "Well, sonny," the man said, patting him on the back and edging him away. "You're a bit young at the moment. But never mind! One day, you may be good enough to play for Arsenal." It took some time for Bastin to talk his way in.



CLIFF BASTIN	IAN WRIGHT
Seasons: 1929-30 to 1938-39 1946-47	Seasons: 1991-92 to present
League goals: 150 (350 appearances)	League goals: 121 (198 appearances)
FA Cup goals: 26 (41 appearances)	Football League Cup goals: 28 (28 appearances)
Charity Shield: 2 (4 appearances)	FA Cup goals: 12 (15 appearances)
Total: 178 (395 appearances)	Charity Shield: 1 (1 appearance)
	European competitions: 15 (19 appearances)
	Total: 177 (261 appearances)

GLENN HODDLE, the England coach, may have mellowed a touch since his elevation to the international brotherhood, but few can forget the withering looks that he frequently used, at club level, when faced with what he considered to be a banal or intrusive question. Many an interrogator wilted under his intense glare.

Friends again

Peace has broken out between John Madejski, the Reading chairman, and Clive "The Hound" Baskerville, football correspondent of the *Reading Evening Post*. Baskerville was banned — lucky man — from Reading's dire 1-0 defeat against Swindon Town last Saturday, for printing the caustic comments of Jimmy Quinn, Reading's former joint player-manager, that a truce has now been reached. No longer in the doghouse, the Hound is back.

Seedy prize

Man-of-the-match award-winners in the Coca-Cola Cup last season were presented

with a mountain bike but, this time around, the oh-so-lucky star performer receives a full-sized plastic football with red-and-black patches. On pressing one of the panels, a CD player gradually emerges from the innards. "It's ghastly, one of the tackiest things I've ever seen," a Nationwide League club official said.

Homing instinct

Most FA Carling Premiership players spend their summers lazing on the beaches of Mauritius or the Maldives, soaking up the rays and drinking tequila until sunrise. Not so Fernando Nelson, Aston Villa's Portugal defender. Nelson, with one eye on



his future career, relaxed by supervising the building of a set of apartments back home in Oporto. He is also getting used to fatherhood — his wife, Maria, having produced a son. He has been christened, simply, Ivan Nelson Carvalho da Silva Vieira Alves.

Early riser

Annual meetings can be tricky affairs, when Mr Ordinary vents his spleen and the company bigwigs get a grilling. Walsall thus had the right idea when they staged their yearly get-together at 9am. Only nine shareholders turned up. Could the early start also have been related to the fact that the Bescot Stadium's rent has risen from £99,000 a year to £121,000? Facing the music was Jeff Bonsor, the Walsall chairman ... and Bescot landlord.

Hush funds

Mystery, secrecy and intrigue in north London ... Arsenal supporters wishing to check

the transfer fees of Arsène Wenger's ever-expanding squad will need to look farther afield than the club's handbook, magazine or match programme. Word has come down from on high, from those who must be obeyed at Highbury, that on no account should such sensitive financial details be registered in any official publication. Those who transgress will be punished by a tackle from that hard but fair Frenchman, Patrick Vieira.

Easy money

Testimonial matches often take on a familiar guise — veteran player or staff man strolls throughout tame proceedings, referee awards non-

existent penalty near the end, veteran player or staff man scores. A perfect finale, money in the bank and everybody goes home happy. Graham Allner, 14 years with Kidderminster Harriers and the longest-serving manager in the Vauxhall Conference, declined such an active role during his benefit game against Aston Villa at Aggborough. "I want to enjoy the proceeds of my testimonial," he said. "I don't want to use them to bury me."

STRANGE BUT TRUE: After the Labour landslide at the last general election, only six football clubs are in Conservative constituencies. All are from the Nationwide League — Nottingham Forest, Southend United, Barnet, Wycombe Wanderers, Bournemouth and Macclesfield Town.

Gullit fumes as tasteless joke hits Chelsea share price

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

RUUD GULLIT, the Chelsea player-manager, was at the centre of a bizarre and tasteless scam yesterday that suggested he had died in a car crash. The "news" was broadcast on information screens throughout the City, which caused immediate concern among dealers.

Although Chelsea officials were quick to scotch the rumour, shares in Chelsea Village, the club's holding company, dropped 50 pence on the day's trading. Gullit only knew of the story when he began to receive a series of phonecalls in his office at the Chelsea training ground.

"For people to want to make a profit out of shares in this way is completely without taste," Gullit said. "It means they don't have any respect for me, my friends or the fans. Everybody was calling me, trying to find out what had happened, and the only thing that had happened was that my car had been washed."

"It wasn't very nice at all. A joke can be good, and these sort of things can happen, but they showed me no respect. That's the worst thing. You don't do that."

Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, was relieved that reports of Gullit's death were premature. He will soon discuss with him the nature of a new contract, which could keep him at Stamford Bridge well into the next millennium.

"Those talks will be very soon. In the next few weeks," Gullit said. "I will tell you what I'm going to do after I've made my decision. I don't know when that will be."

Sasa Curcic, the Aston Villa midfielder, believes that he has played his last game at Villa Park. He has been involved in a long-running dispute with Brian Little, the Villa manager, that began soon after his £4 million move from Bolton Wanderers last summer, and the split now appears permanent.

Wolverhampton Wanderers, the Nationwide League first division club, are favourites to sign him if they can agree personal terms. "It's 99 per cent certain that I will leave Villa to join Wolves," Curcic said yesterday. "I've no chance of playing in the Villa first team at present and that's down to Little. I'm fed up with the way he and the Villa directors have treated me. I've not been given the chance to prove myself."

"I'm desperate for first-team football and, at Wolves, I could prove that I am one of the best midfielders around. Wolves is also near enough to Birmingham for me not to have to move house."

Barnsley have failed in their attempt to sign Iain Dowie, the Northern Ireland and West Ham United striker. Dowie has been offered a new contract at Upton Park.



COLIN MONTGOMERIE 45

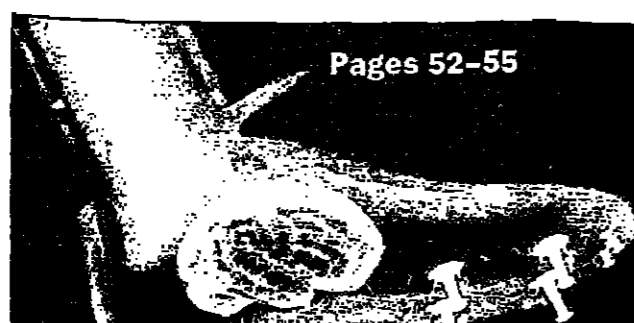
Fighting fatigue on a demanding tour of duty

SPORT

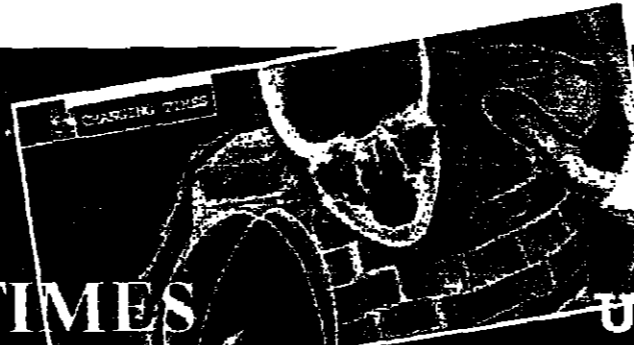
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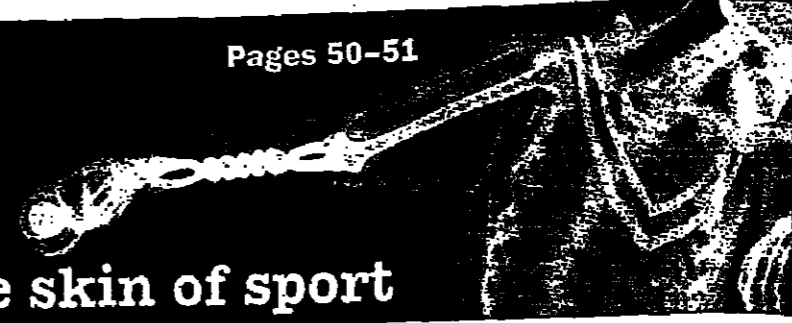
Hoping for normal service to resume after pain in Spain



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THE TIMES

Under the skin of sport

Tufnell spins thread of hope for Atherton and England

MICHAEL HENDERSON



At the Oval

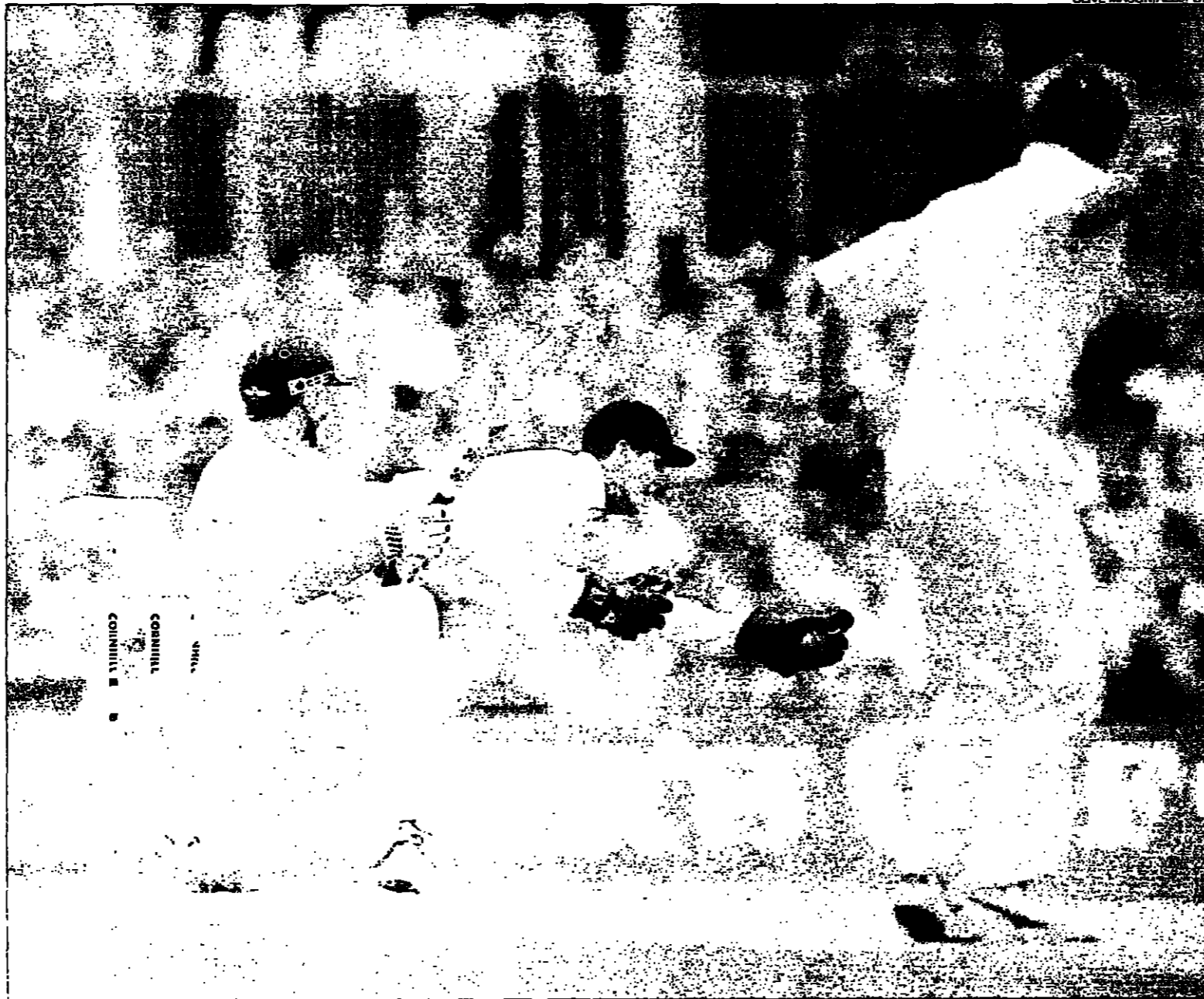
IT WAS late in the season, too late to change the outcome of a series Australia have dominated since losing the first Test in June, but Phil Tufnell, the Middlesex slow left-arm bowler England chose to ignore earlier in the season, enabled his team-mates to recover a measure of self-respect at the Oval yesterday.

By taking seven wickets for 64, his best performance in Test cricket, Tufnell gave the south London crowd something to shout about. They did, heartily, until the roof began to fall in on England's bating for the second successive day. It was a familiar tale of woe by the close when they were struggling to carry the match into a third day.

Nobody can point the finger at Tufnell. He has been selected for every Test this summer only to be released on the previous five occasions because the pitches were thought to offer the quicker bowlers more assistance. It has been a difficult time for him, though he has done his best not to get upset, even as Australia overturned the loss at Edgbaston to take an unassailable 3-1 lead.

Yesterday, he bowled unchanged from the start of play, earning considerable purchase from the footholds established by bowlers at the Vauxhall End, Australia, who began the day on 77 for two, were dismissed for 218, giving them a lead of 88. By nightfall, all had changed again with England three wickets down and only 14 runs ahead when bad light stopped play.

It was in the last session of play on Thursday that Tufnell took his first two wickets, Michael Atherton, the England captain, had him on straight away yesterday morning and he finished off the Australia innings half an hour after tea on a day lengthened by two stoppages for drizzle.



Blewett, who was top scorer for Australia with 45, perishes in Tufnell's web, caught behind by Stewart in the final Test yesterday

Through his example, he had given England a toehold on the Test, if only their batsmen could play with greater application the second time around. On the evidence they supplied last night before bad light stopped play with the spinners on, they could not.

The crowd sided completely with Tufnell, even though he comes from the other side of the river. It is three years since an English crowd saw him play in Tests, against South Africa at Headingley, and in the months since then there have been times when he has despaired of playing again. In fact, this is only his seventh Test appearance in his country. But this was his hour of triumph on a ground that has treated him favourably before, and the old boy relished every moment of it.

It was six years ago, and to Tufnell it must seem a lifetime, that he bamboozled six batsmen here on a giddy Saturday afternoon, and led the way to a notable victory against West Indies to level the series at two apiece. Now he was back, bouncing in to bowl and celebrating every success with joy unconfined. As he led his team-mates up the steps to the dressing-room at the end, people stood to acclaim the maverick spinner.

Tufnell has never shared an untroubled course through cricket, or life. He was expelled from Highgate School, instructed to "cut off that pony-tail" when he joined Middlesex, and has been up many an emotional hill and down a few temperamental dales. Middlesex have backed him but even there, among

friends, he has had his moments. On a particularly fraught tour of Australia two winters ago, when he was the victim of some outrageous abuse from the crowds, he spent a night in the secure unit of a mental

'This Little Jack Horner dismissal of Healy lit Alec Stewart's face with a perfect mixture of feelings ... joy fought for mastery over the most hideous embarrassment'
Simon Barnes, page 50

hospital, and there was serious talk of sending him home. Away from the cricket there have been some "domestics", culminating in a visit from his (then) father-in-law, who brought a brick with him. Through it all, Tufnell never lost his ability, though there were times when he was used as a defensive bowler rather than the attacking spinner he is by instinct. Yesterday, as Australia's batsmen jabbed at him, lunging from the crease he was clearly thrilled by his reversion to the style that suits him best. Once more he was bowling to take the wickets of good players and he got them. It was a day he rediscovered himself.

Until yesterday, Tufnell's best performance in Tests was in Christchurch five years ago when New Zealand collapsed on the last afternoon, and he took seven for 47. Those remain his best figures but this was certainly a better display of spin bowling, admittedly on a pitch that he would like to carry around with him. Until Shane Warne danced down the pitch and clattered into the pavilion, nobody took liberties.

Atherton spoke earlier this week of how he had had to tell Tufnell he would not be playing in the previous Tests, and how they had both wanted to laugh at the predictability of it, but managed to put on a sensible face. It would be nice to think Tufnell could now regain his place on a regular basis, and contribute to English victories in the coming years. Do not bet that way, though. It will lead to the poorhouse.

So what is this all leading up to? It's obvious. Shane Warne is living proof of an unjust God. That's what the English cricket fans really think — and they've thought it since 1993, when his first ball in an Ashes Test gave Mike Gatting the fright of his life. Like Mozart in Peter Shaffer's *Amadeus*, he is God-given genius residing in an oval. On Thursday, at the Oval, Adam Holoake just lifted his bat out of harm's way and watched Warne's ball crash into his stumps. What made Holoake lift that bat? Divine intervention, that's what.

So you can understand England's resentment, generally. However, there is a deeply stupid aspect to "Fat boy go home" which I've only just realised. You mean, the Australians will leave us next week, and we won't see them here again for four years? Yikes, that's awful. Imagine the anticlimax when they've gone, the emptiness, the national chorus of *My Baby Has Grown Down the Plughole*.

So who cares that oafs work wonders, or that the Australians are shocking tobogganists (or whatever it is)? "Fat boy stay here," is what we ought to be saying, if we had any sense. "Fat boy stay here, and hey, we might even consider not calling you fat boy any more!"

Hill pays high price for wage gamble

FROM MICHAEL CALVIN IN SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS

DAMON HILL endured a painful lesson in the laws of supply and demand at Spa-Francorchamps yesterday afternoon when, within an hour of denying he was in danger of pricing himself out of a job in a buyer's market, he lost his most realistic chance of another world championship.

Ron Dennis, managing director of McLaren, brought forward the announcement that he has retained David Coulthard and Mika Hakkinen for 1998 in response to Hill's suggestion, in another hastily prepared statement, that he had rejected his approach because it failed to demonstrate "a serious commitment to me as a driver."

In the doublespeak that passes as the language of choice in the Formula One paddock at this time of year, that means that the McLaren offer, of a basic \$2 million (about £1.25 million), topped up with bonuses of \$100,000 for each world championship point, was deemed insufficient for a driver of Hill's perceived seniority.

Dennis twisted the knife by suggesting that he had "placed commitment to winning as the principal criterion for the selection process". In other words, he believed that Hill had placed cash above championship credibility. It was a devastating rebuke, which placed into doubt the strategy of Hill's career development. His gamble, in relying on the financial muscle traditionally applied by a champion, began to unravel after he had finished fifth in free practice for the Belgian Grand Prix tomorrow. Although initially non-committal, Hill was eventually goaded into rash self-promotion by suggestions that his rejection of McLaren smacked of greed.

He justified his negotiating

stance by claiming he had been offered \$20 million to sign a two-year contract with an unnamed team, believed to be Sauber. "It is not right to expect me to roll over with my legs in the air and forgo all the things I have worked for in my career," he said. "I would be betraying everything I have done. I am not just delivering for Damon Hill. I am delivering for my fans, the country, the team. But I am not so desperate as to do that for nothing."

Coulthard accepted with



Hill: rebuked

alacrity the deal that Hill rejected, explaining that "on paper we have a world championship-winning team next season". Hill's options, by contrast, are likely to be limited. Despite his attraction to Benson and Hedges, the British-based sponsor of Jordan, he will have to drop his wage demands to fit into the team's budget. Alain Prost, whose eponymous team now offers Hill his best chance of a move from TWR Arrows, was a second seat spare but insisted yesterday that it will be filled by "someone who is fast and cheap".

Spa's challenge, page 48

Crowd's ignorance proves a fat lot of good

Australians may not be much use on a toboggan but their sledging has frozen England's rabbits

The trouble with being new to cricket is that, when you read an innocent phrase such as "a rabbit on strike", the image of a bunny on a picket line just won't go away. "The Australians are terrible sledgers" will likewise place all sorts of ski-slope catastrophes in your mind, with koala-bear pom-pom hats scattered poignantly in the snow.

But the worst thing is when someone tries to tell you the difference between a flipper, a wrong 'un and (oh, I don't know) a triple dipstick with reverse pin-uette. "It's all down to the third finger," your friend says, cupping an imaginary cricket ball behind his back like a commissioner expecting a tip. He lifts a shoulder Quasimodo-fashion and starts to wheel his arm like a windmill. "Arm comes over, see? Third finger snaps forward, see? Topspin, backspin, googly, leg break, sorry, am I getting too technical?"

At which point — as your friend grabs a small rubber cut-out and unleashes it to veer wildly across the living room, shattering a favourite lampshade — the neophyte just

sighs deeply and collects a dustpan from under the sink. It's not the criminal damage that you mind. It's just always embarrassing when people feel the need to lie. "Look, you don't really understand spin bowling," you want to plead, as you sweep up the bits. "But stop pretending, that's all."

Now, the Australia leg spinner Shane Warne's record and reputation are clearly based on a phenomenal skill yet I honestly believe one of the reasons for the hostile "Fat boy go home" stuff he's experienced in this Test series is that, actually, deep down, no one's got a clue how he does it and it's their ignorance (rather than plain jealousy) that makes them sting.

This is not to say, of course, that Warne isn't irritating in other ways. He is. The earring doesn't work. He famously espouses a pure pizza diet against all health advice. Plus, he really, really enjoys winning. When you are facing a deeply grim Ashes defeat, such tireless, childlike pleasure in jumping up and down, dousing the head in champagne and wagging the bottom in triumph



sometimes seem a bit tactless, to say the least. But basically the English fans are scared. His skill is so heavily disguised, you see, it's actually invisible.

"Show you again?" he threatens, grinning those eerie white lips. "No, don't," we reply. Though we watch slow-motion replays with a studious frown, the mystery remains intact. "There goes the ball ... it bounces ... and

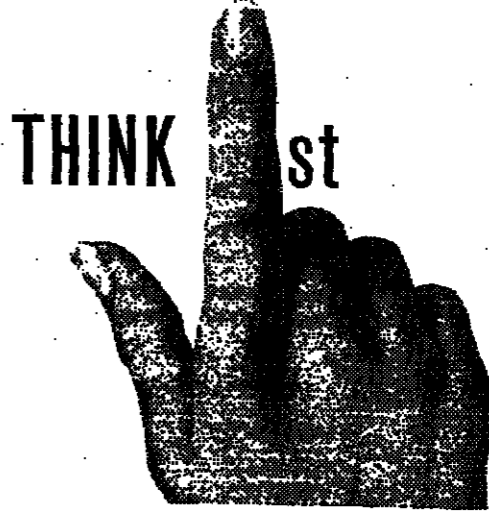
oooh-er missus, it's gone round the back of his legs!"

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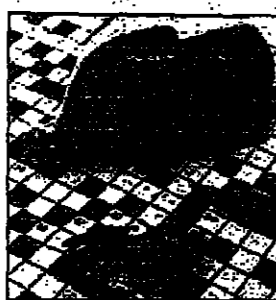
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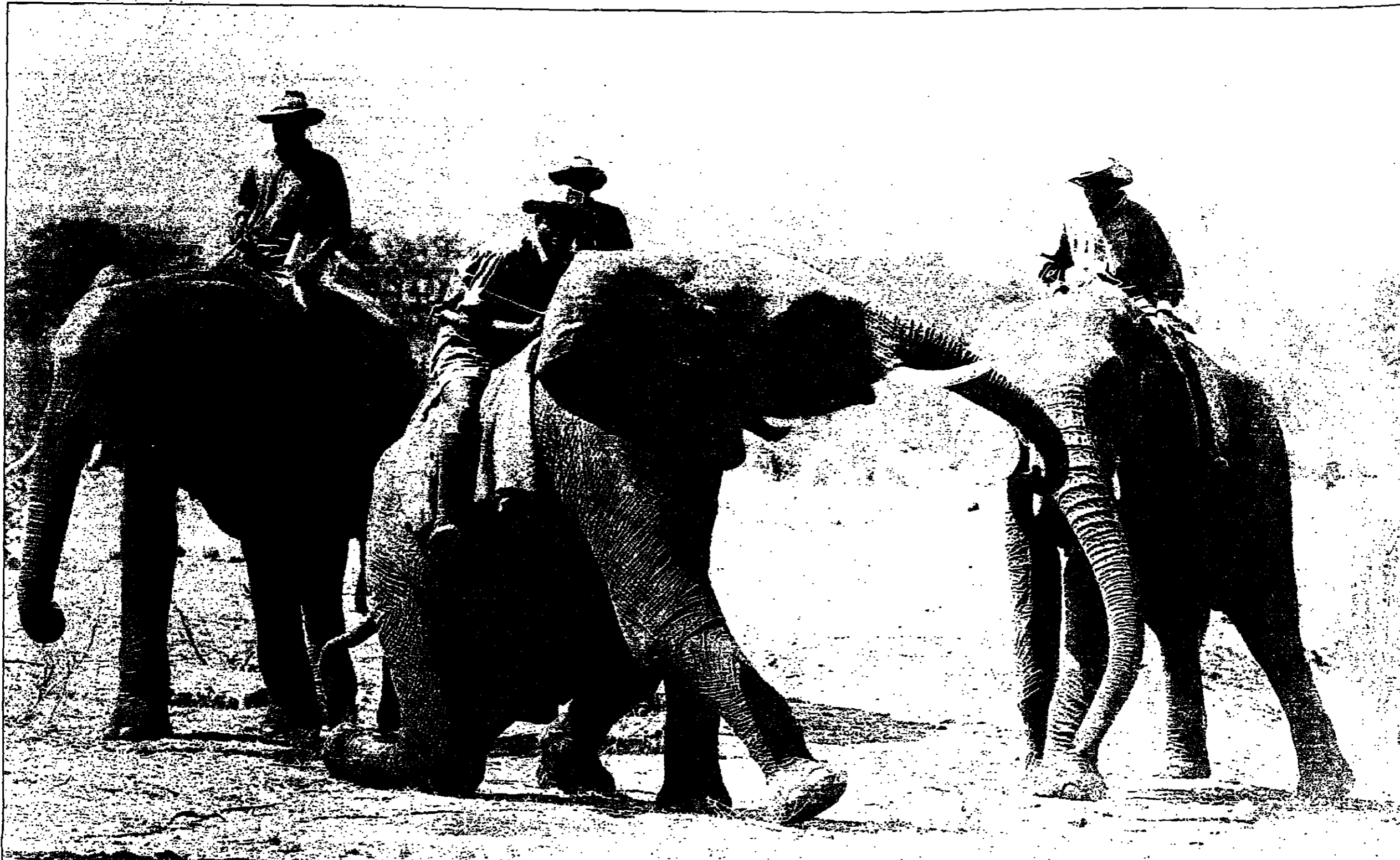
THE TIMES weekend

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SATURDAY AUGUST 23 1997

Diana, Dodi, landmines and elephants: Mary Finnegan meets the star attractions of a new \$60 million movie



Elephants auditioning in Zimbabwe for the film *Mambo*, which Dodi Fayed is said to be interested in backing, and whose anti-landmine message will appeal to Diana, Princess of Wales. Pictures by Peter Nicholls

Loud flapping sounds, like the sails of a tacking yacht, signalled the start of the audition. The great powering frame with its massive girth momentarily blocked out the morning sun as Jock, the giant bull elephant, lumbered forward. Ahead, the group of casting directors, watching intently, suddenly stiffened.

The elephant's eyesight is poor; the rheumy eyes would make nothing of the small group standing apprehensively to one side. A voice called out, "Forward now!" The bull extended his stride and a cloud of red dust exploded from under its colossal footpads.

From the sideline the voice called out again: "Left, now," and "Go right!"

Uncannily, the enormous beast obeyed every instruction, looking for all the world as if it were picking its way gingerly through a minefield.

This was the most serious part of its test. Jock, who weighs more than two-and-a-half tonnes, was being put through paces which might win him the star part in a \$60 million film - *Mambo*.

The film, which is due to be made next spring, starring Gene Hackman and Embeth Davidtz, has already excited worldwide interest because of its subject matter. The combination of elephants, landmines and the emerging nation of Nelson Mandela's South Africa has set Hollywood abuzz with rumours that the playboy film

producer Dodi Fayed is interested in backing it. There have been reports that he has been looking for a project close to the heart of Diana, Princess of Wales, and *Mambo* has all the ingredients to keep the subject of public attention. Tinseltown has even mooted the idea of the Princess becoming a co-producer and, although he plays down the notion, the writer and producer Gordon Thomas welcomes the publicity she has brought for the film.

"When Mr Fayed arrived in Los Angeles after the holiday with Diana in St Topez, I received 22 phone calls from journalists all around the world asking me if Diana was involved in the production. Her support would be welcome. However, I would not expect to see her on the set."

The movie will go ahead with or without the royal connection, which is why Thomas was in Zimbabwe this week to audition elephants from two herds: one at Victoria Falls and another on a farm near Harare.

Rory Hensman, the elephant trainer, who has spent his life working with the animals, dispels the myth that only Indian elephants can be trained. His success with Jock,



Gordon Thomas, the producer of *Mambo*, welcomes the publicity the Princess has given to landmines

an African bull, proves otherwise. "Good man," said Hensman, giving Jock an affectionate pat. The elephant curled his trunk around the trainer and nudged him in an obvious show of affection.

Hensman believes that elephants are far more intelligent than dogs and horses. Why? "Because they figure out what

to do in response to what the voice commands rather than the Pavlov conditioning of other trained animals."

Apart from training elephants for people to ride on, he teaches them to "play" football and polo, to hurl objects and even to "talk" - he will say "Talk to me, Jock" and a series of grunts ensue. In other

words, he has taught them to do all the things elephants otherwise do only in a Disney cartoon.

Hurling boulders is a crucial skill for the part of Mambo. The elephant needs to be able to pick up rocks with its trunk and hurl them at the mines to explode them.

The story of Mambo brings

together the old ways of Africa represented by the Gene Hackman character, Tom, a game warden at a national park, with the new Africa as seen through the eyes of his daughter, Beth, played by Embeth Davidtz of *Schindler's List* fame. The daughter returns home from Harvard University with an advanced degree in zoology and immediately finds herself at odds with her father over the government programme for elephants, which involves controlling the numbers by culling old and infirm beasts which destroy vegetation and become a burden on the environment.

As game warden at a national park, Beth's father must oversee and defend the programme. But Beth's childhood friend, Mambo, falls into this category and he and his family are due to be culled.

Beth, emotionally involved with the elephant and convinced by her studies that Mambo possesses useful skills, determines to save him. She is placed in grave danger by a poacher who is intent on killing the bull, and the drama evolves around father and daughter resolving their personal conflict and together setting out to capture the poacher and lead

Mambo and his family to safety outside the country. It's a "feel-good" buddy movie, which should do for elephants what Stephen Spielberg did for dinosaurs in *Jurassic Park*. Jeff Dalla Beta, one of the film's producers and a veteran of all-action movies, calls *Mambo* "Free Willy With Tusks".

It's certainly politically correct enough for any royal association. All those involved with the elephants at the Elephant Camp near Victoria Falls are adamant that they will not allow their charges to be used in any way that would demean them or "de-elephantise them".

Hensman's bulls, if they get through the audition, will be expected to cross a mocked-up minefield littered with realistic effects, to use their trunks to battle with crocodiles (clockwork-driven and costing £3,000 apiece), and their massive frames to dig out the human stars of the movie from under film-set landslides.

One of the main concerns of co-producer Gordon Thomas was the safety of the elephants and, of course, the cast and production team. With him was a crew from The Discovery Channel, who were shooting an episode for the animal series *Wild On Set*. Both he and the Discovery team are well aware of public concern for animals used in movies.

Despite the evident skill of the massive bull Jock in picking its way delicately through the

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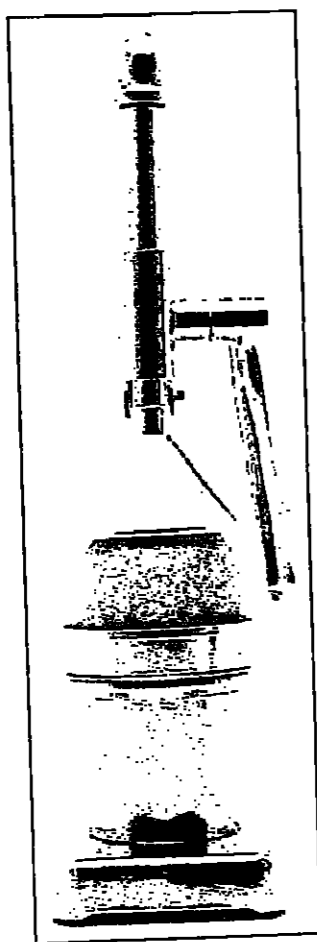
AIRLANKA
It's a way of thinking.

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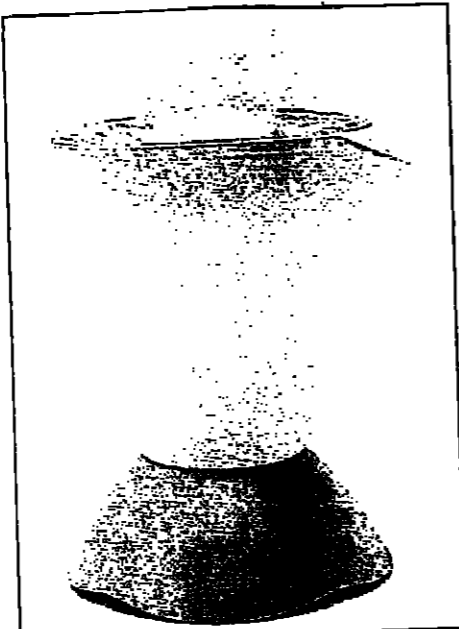
Squeeze the best out of summer with juicers that, with a flick of the wrist or switch,

satisfy tangy tastes, says Sophie Chamier

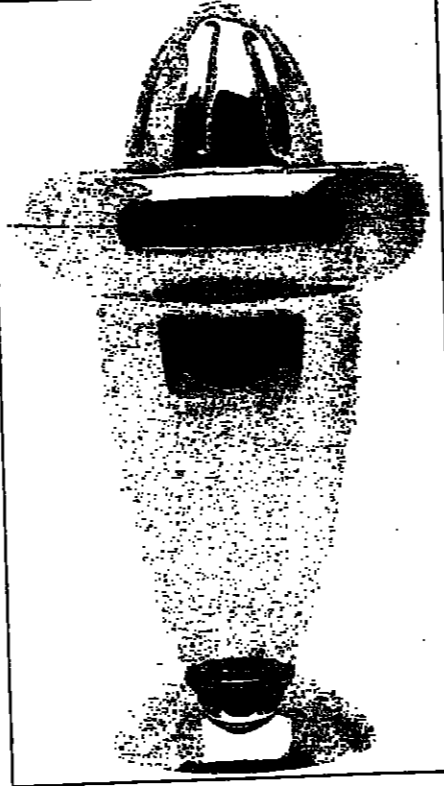
A pressing case for fruit drinks



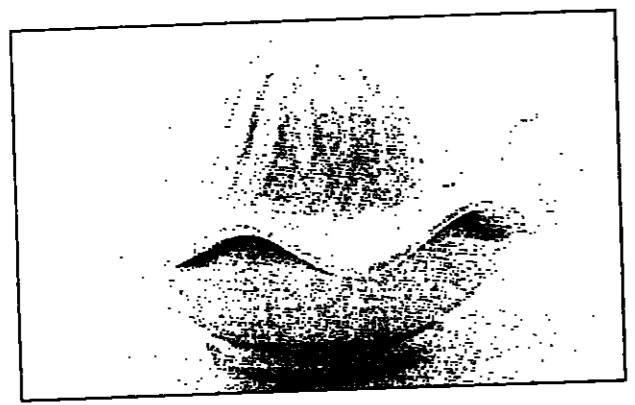
ABOVE: Large chrome juicer, £44.95, Heal's, 196 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (0171-636 1666)



CENTRE: Electric juicer which can squeeze juice and compress pulp, with green and yellow or white and grey detachable jug, £40, Guzzini (0181-646 3883)



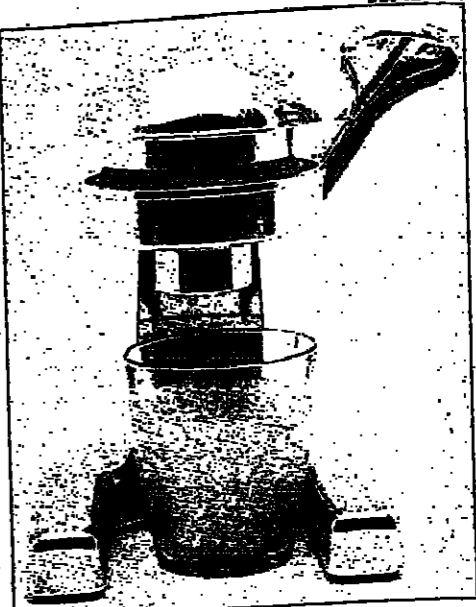
RIGHT: German Chromagran stainless-steel juicer, £99, Fortnum & Mason, 181 Piccadilly, London W1 (0171-734 8040)



Earthenware squeezer, with rippling sides and juice-collecting bowl in yellow or blue, £22.95, Susan Pryke Design, Liberty, Regent Street, London W1 (0171-734 1234)



Simple hand-held aluminium hinged citrus press, £12.75, Graham and Green, 7 Elgin Crescent, London W11 (0171-727 4594)



Chrome-plated Dancer press, with removable parts for easy cleaning, £58.50, Graham and Green, 7 Elgin Crescent, W1 (0171-727 4594)



ABOVE: Cactus-shaped plastic juicer, with detachable jug, £7.50, in orange and lime green or brick red and dark green, The Source, 26-40 Kensington High Street, W8 (0171-937 2626)

LEFT: Juicy Saffi aluminium squeezer, designed by Philippe Starck, £41, selected branches of John Lewis nationwide (0171-629 7711)

Continued from page 1
imaginary minefield. Thomas was worried and bombarded Hensman with questions. How would the herd react when there were explosions going off everywhere, for example? "Not a problem," Hensman reassured Thomas. The previous day on his farm at Chinoyi, 70 miles north of Harare in the bushveld, he had let off

'An association with Diana would help boost the movie'

several rounds of gunfire right alongside a herd of baby elephants he adopted after a cull destroyed their mothers. "They were completely undisturbed by the shots and, if people around stay calm, they will remain passive," Hensman said. "The old saying is true: that elephants never forget," he added, which seems amazing given the association the babies would have had with gunfire which left them orphaned. Clearly, any trauma they may have associated with the noise has been overcome by the patience, love and care shown to them by their handlers. Elephants also learn from each other, which meant that a new baby arrival to the group was unproblematic during that particularly scary

experiment. Thomas also needed to know how much rehearsal time the elephants needed, which was harder to answer, but Hensman explained patiently that an elephant can be taught to do anything given time.

His is a passion combined with utmost respect and shameless affection for the creatures. His wife, Lindy, is equally devoted, and revealed that what the beasts love most is to have their tongues fondled.

Hensman related the poignant tale of how, when his friend was killed by an elephant some years ago in understandable circumstances involving cows and calves, the herd buried his body under dust and laid branches over him as they do for their own dead.

The producers were anxious to know how the herd would react when it was transported to the movie location, the Sharnwari Game Reserve near Port Elizabeth, South Africa, 1,700 miles away, which has already been chosen as an ideal location.

The animals will be accompanied by their groomers and will need to be settled for several months before filming to acclimatise themselves. "Some of the animals may be a little too wild to be used in the foreground but they will do nicely as background fill," Thomas said.

Then there are the problems with food to overcome. Elephants eat up to 150lb of fodder a day and, like all vegetarians, prefer their food fresh. "That means we will need a team and logistics of a 'Desert Storm' operation," said Thomas, who is already preparing to send teams ahead of the Mambo transporters to prepare tonnes of leaves and grass. "Hannibal didn't have these problems when he took his elephants over the Alps," he said.

Thomas, 64, white-bearded and a former BBC producer and a founder member of Tomorrow's World and Horizon, is a successful author with sales of more than 40 million to his credit, five of which have been made into films, including Voyage of the Damned (which won five Academy Award nominations) and Time Ran Out, starring Paul Newman. "The screenplay of that film managed to retain only 29 lines of my original book, which is why I decided the only way to get what I want on screen was to become involved in the production end," Thomas said. Mambo is his first venture into Hollywood movies as producer/writer and has travelled 6,000 miles from his home outside Dublin to screen test the Hensman herd.



Elephants love to have their tongues fondled, which helps to calm them when filming



Diana, Princess of Wales, in action on her landmine campaign, and her new friend, the playboy film producer Dodi Fayed. They have been linked to the movie Mambo



As part of the producer's pledge to make this the first major film to come out of South Africa under Mandela's government, the crew will be supplied by the South African co-producers in the venture, Riverstone. They are at present working with Quentin Tarantino on two other films, but Mambo is their biggest. Thomas said, "It's going to give South Africa a serious presence on the movie stage."

Adrian Gardiner, the millionaire owner of Sharnwari Game Reserve, who has invited the Princess of Wales to visit his game lodge after a visit by the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, is frank about the Fayed-Diana connection. "The people behind Mambo know that even an 'understood' association with the Princess would give the movie an enormous boost." When he heard that the film was being written by Thomas, who was in hospital last December recovering from surgery, the flamboyant Gardiner flew to his bedside in Dublin to persuade him that Sharnwari was the ideal location for the filming of Mambo.

Gardiner, 54, has also sweet-talked a number of wealthy South Africans to invest in the film. "It's not just that they will get their money back, it's what they will be doing for South Africa," he said. "Mambo can change the entire face of tourism. Look what happened after Out of Africa and White Mischief were made in Kenya. Tourism boomed there."

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Cool way to see out summer

When the going gets hot, slip into a strappy dress with simple but elegant accessories, advises

Heath Brown



Plum silk embroidered dress, £475; matching bag, £110; Mathew Williamson, Browns, 23-27 South Molton Street, W1 (0171-493 1230). Plum satin slingbacks, £99, Kurt Geiger, Selfridges, W1 (0171-546 1888)

Searching clothes stores at this time of year for a late-summer party dress can be a grim experience. The first shipments of autumn hues and heavy fabrics are already in stock and hangers are loaded with deep-plum velvet, heavy sequins and soft leatherette, none of which is suitable for hot summer nights. So what is a girl to do to look and stay cool?

The best bet is to go straight for next season's delicate evening styles, which are cool and elegant enough for a riverside soiree, a refined concert picnic or a leisurely lunch. Although many of the new styles come with autumn or winter scarves or throws, these can be discarded in summer and accessorised to suit the weather.

One of the best styles to look out for is the easy-to-wear chiffon slip, which is layered, soft and appealingly short. Because it is loose and floaty, with elegant, graceful layers, this style is suitable for all sizes and shapes, whether it is for an all-occasion function or an over-heated ball.

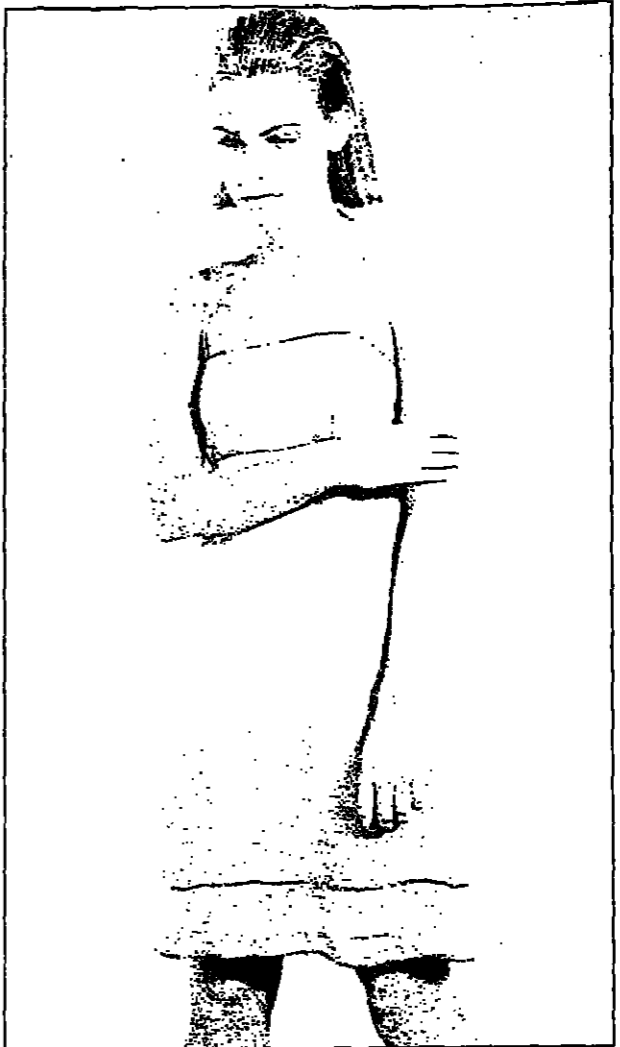
Discreet embroidered details and beading can also liven up the simplest dress in the most subtle ways. Do not go overboard, though — dainty stitching is more suited to summer; leaving the heavier-embroidered, tasselled or embossed fabrics and severe silhouettes for the winter evenings.

Paler colours — if you can find them — still retain a hint of high summer. Warehouse, Oasis and Next all have these shades in their transitional collections and Monsoon is offering a range of iridescent hues that reflect the evening light, adding a touch of sparkle. Search out light blues and soft pinks — or even try white, which can be mixed with rich colours for winter evenings later in the year.

For a hint of glamour, wear strappy sandals and cool, slip-on heeled mules, and carry simple accessories such as a simple satin grosgrain evening bag or beaded purse. And, as the nights start to draw in, wear an elegant shawl to keep the chill off — a good selection can be found at Fenwick's and branches of Debenhams and Marks & Spencer. It is possible to look ravishingly hot, yet keep your cool; with a little nous, you can mix bits from every season, letting summer looks last all year.



Ice-blue and silver glitter-print shell top, £185; matching long skirt, £410; matching stole, £125, Press & Bastyan, Kate Jones, 28 St Christopher's Place, W1 (0171-636 1614). Photographs by Richard Burns. Hair and make-up by Sally Kvalheim for Jo Hansford. Styling by Amandip Uppal



Two-tone grey chiffon dress with fine beading, £55, Warehouse, branches nationwide (0171-276 3491)



Sequined khaki dress, £150, Monsoon, (0171-313 3000). Copper sequin mules £95, Kurt Geiger, as before. Chocolate clutch bag, £269, Bruno Magli Couture, Kurt Geiger, as before



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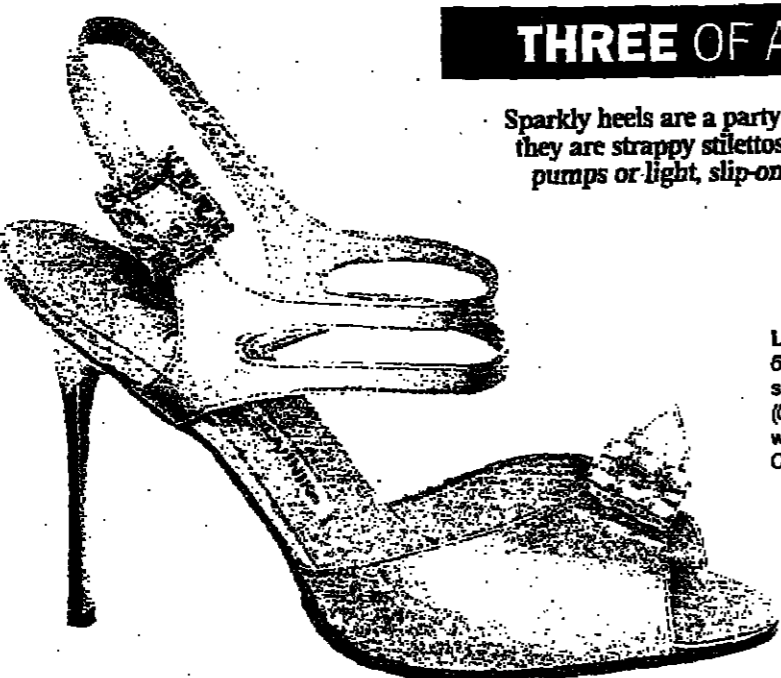
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LEFT: Perspex strappy mules, £47.99, Ravel (0171-631 0224). ABOVE: Silver grey satin shoes with square diamanté buckles, £325, Manolo Blahnik (0171-352 8622). RIGHT: Chocolate satin court shoes with diamanté studded heel, £149, Bruno Magli Couture, Kurt Geiger, Selfridges (0171-546 1888)



A lost universe reclaimed

■ Wentworth Castle Garden, Stainborough, Barnsley, South Yorkshire (01226 731269)

One and a half miles from the J27 of the M1. Conducted tours, Tues 10am, Thurs 2pm. Groups by appointment only. Closed Bank Holiday Monday. £2 a head.

Here is another exciting "lost" garden being brought back to life. Most of Wentworth's 40 acres were laid out in the first half of the 18th century by William Wentworth but were a derelict jungle until 18 years ago when Derek Rogers was appointed head gardener. Today the gardens hold the national collections of species rhododendrons and magnolias and are renowned with one of the Chinese botanic gardens. From the viewing platform in the Secret Garden at the centre is a view of the "universe", with a large central bed representing the sun, myriad smaller beds representing the stars and four medium-sized beds the equinox. Some of the old-fashioned roses should be in their second flush as you read this. This Grade I listed garden includes 18 monuments, a Union Jack Walk, woodland, a walk through a tunnel of rhododendrons, terraces, drives, rides and all year round interest.

■ Lower House Farm, Nantyderry, Gwent, Wales (01873 880257)

Seven miles southeast of Abergavenny. Open tomorrow and Monday for the National Gardens Scheme. 2-4pm, £1.50. Private visits by appointment.

This garden has been featured on television and in magazines for its selection of common and unusual plants, a fern island with wild flowers and, at this time of year, excellent late-flowering

GARDENS TO VISIT



Trebah gardens in Cornwall

perennials. Rose Clay does almost all the work in the three acres. Vivid blue *Aster x frikartii* 'Humber von Stäfa' and pale lilac flowered *A. thomsonii* 'Nanus' will be strutting their stuff along with pinky-purple flowered

winter savory, *Satureja montana*, and a range of verbena and penstemons, and roses and hardy geraniums will be in their second flush.

■ Trebah, Mawnan Smith, near Falmouth, Cornwall (01326 250448)

Four miles southwest of Falmouth. Open daily all year 10.30am-5pm. £3, £1 children.

This is a good holiday garden: a nature trail and adventure park for children and plenty of plant and landscape interest for grown-ups. Set in a dramatic, plunging valley with a stream trickling along its base, the damp, lower parts of the 25-acre garden have a jungle-like quality created by vast gunneras, palms, bamboos and tree ferns, while unusual trees dot the rest of the garden, most of which are clearly labelled. The hydrangeas should be looking good and the views to the sea across the Helford River are stunning. Trebah was made by Charles Fox in 1831 and was restored through the 1980s by Major and Mrs Hibberd, who are still involved with the gardens.

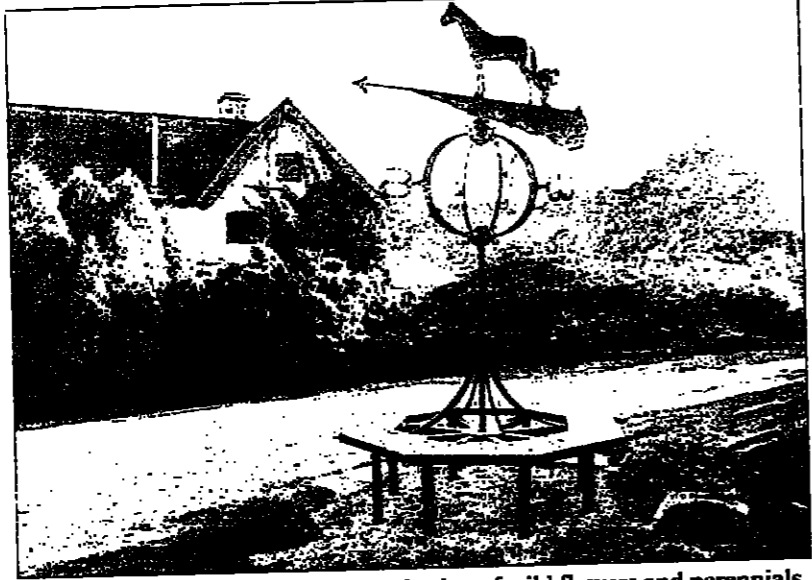
■ Painshill Park, Cobham, Surrey (01932 868113)

Half a mile west of Cobham on the A425. Open every day except Mondays until October, 10.30am-6pm. £3.50, £1 children.

The park, so close to London and yet with an atmosphere far from metropolitan, is a fairytale landscape of follies, temples and lakes. The estate was built in the mid-18th century by Charles Hamilton, who poured money into the landscape and almost nothing into his house, which was oddly modest by contemporary standards. His unusual priorities have left behind a Turkish tent (splendidly restored), a Gothic folly with astonishing views, a Greek temple, a huge working waterwheel, an elegant (restored) wooden folly and a Chinese bridge that transports the visitor to a grotto made largely of crystals which must once have glittered in candlelight.

The flowerbeds not far from the Greek temple are large, although they do not appear so because of the scale of the surroundings and they tend to be an excellent example of planning for this time of year. Painshill is the kind of place where it is possible for a family to spend a day without getting bored with woodland walks and good views from plenty of points around the 150 acres. Disabled visitors can sometimes get a bus ride around certain areas of interest. Some buggies should be available soon.

JANE OWEN



Lower House Farm with its good selection of wild flowers and perennials

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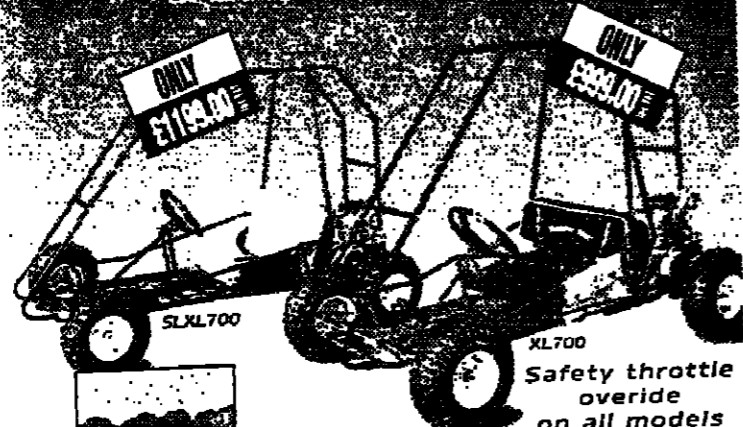
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GRAHAM HARRISON



In its different "rooms", Jilly Cooper's garden reflects childhood passions and an instinctive approach to plant buying

Passion blooms in a Cotswolds haven

Draped in grey cashmere, Jilly Cooper reveals her ambition. "Now that I'm 60 I am going to turn into a lady gardener. Composting is the way to go," she says. I have to tell her that this startling wish can never be realised - unless she gains five stone, develops an awesome bosom and a penchant for thermoplastic skirts and unusual hats: the blueprint for lady gardeners in one of her books.

Gardens appear throughout her novels, which she writes in a 13th-century, free-standing tower in the middle of her 14-acre garden in the Cotswolds. "People say that the garden must give me such inspiration for my books, but it never does. When I am in the garden all I can think about is gardening," she says.

Jilly and her publisher husband Leo ("Incapability Cooper" as he describes himself) bought the house (also 13th century) in 1982 and almost immediately felt they had taken on too much.

"I thought I had made a terrible mistake; some areas were so overgrown," she says. Clearing, tidying and replanting began with the help of two and a half man-hours a week. Hundreds of tons of dead wood were taken out of woodland on the precipitous slope behind the main garden and, with the help of the Forestry Commission, 1,500 broadleaf trees were planted.

The site in Gloucestershire - in the Todmorden valley, or Frogmoor as it appears in her books - is carved into a south-facing slope of limestone, so the soil is tricky and fast draining. This problem is

ME AND MY GARDEN: JILLY COOPER

matched by a strip of heavy clay into which tons of manure of every kind are poured. It is a frost pocket and the wind funnels in from the Bristol Channel.

"I spend about four hours a day watering in the summer because the soil drains so fast and there are never any working hoses. That is the Places in me," Jilly says.

Each of the garden "rooms" made by the Coopers has a distinct atmosphere: sensuous secrecy in the water garden with the gentle trickle of spring-fed water falling into a large rectangular sheep-dipped pool; the ordered fruitfulness of the orchard; an airy lawn which is backed by a cliff of green made by the woodland; sweet sadness around the pet graves where beautifully inscribed slate headstones mark a drowned fox cub and much-loved departed dogs and cats.

There is a passion in this garden that comes from the love the Coopers have lavished on it and the planting that flouts fashion and reflects Jilly's instinctive approach to plant buying.

Red hot pokers which were, she was informed by a grand lady gardener, "too vulgar" wave merrily from the

beds in high summer, and some vast spotted laurels ("far too urban") have been left in place along with a poplar planting ("dreadful").

The other element that marks out this garden is the sculpture: a flying pig among some shrubs and, just inside the drive, a totem pole of books and an owl made from dead Scots. At the far end of the lawn there are two modern stone pillars and, beyond, a curious piece they call "Mrs Thatcher", depicting fields melting into woods, by Christopher Dean.

The most innovative - and controversial - piece is by Paul Day and clings to the virtually blank, east-facing wall of the house. It is either the announcement or the visitation of peace on earth depending on who you want to believe (Mr Cooper insists on the former version, his wife the latter). A great angel swoops down on a group of figures which includes a dog. Dogs as Jilly Cooper points out, do not appear in the Bible.

In summer, below this tableau of bronze-coated fibreglass a pale pink "New Dawn" rose mingles with the purple everlasting pea.

Like many inspired gardeners, Jilly's garden memories are childhood. When she was four years old her mother used to cut sprays of double pink cherry blossom from their Yorkshire garden and put them in a Lalique bowl.

Childhood passion for the double pink faded and, far from Cotswold garden, Jilly ordered a couple of elegant white cherry trees. They took a few years to settle in and then they flowered - in a glorious double pink.

Around the pond sit sculptures of pear-shaped women by Anthony Abrahams. And on the lawn, a chunk of the Houses ofthrown out by a vicar's wife who considered the piece too phallic.

Curled beside a terrace wall, two brown-painted, chicken-wire hounds momentarily deceive - they were made by Rupert Tili, a school friend of the Cooper's son, Felix. Felix is responsible for the red telephone boxes dotted about the garden. He collects them.

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JANE OWEN

Fat of the land: pear-shaped figures grace the poolside

Putting a beat in the border

A bit of rhythm in your planting stops the garden looking flat, writes Stephen Anderton

Making a garden can be curiously like making music. It has its own equivalents of melody, harmony and rhythm, with which gardeners can experiment. Harmony of colour is well understood, and so is a garden's melody - the way the line unfolds through the structure and design of the garden. Rhythm is much trickier, perhaps the hardest quality of the three to introduce.

After all, gardens are usually sited for their dramatics, their lack of rhythm, the way they stand in a kind of peaceful suspense. It is rare to find much bounce in gardens, just look at the way background music in garden television programmes is always of the serene, beatless variety. Unless, maybe, it is for some wacko modern town garden, full of clever hard landscaping, and more an outdoor living room than some where to experiment with plants.

And yet rhythms are there in all gardens, and sometimes they are strong. When a garden needs driving forward between its calmer moments, to move you from A to B, then strong rhythms do the trick. The heading inevitability of an avenue approach is the perfect example. On a smaller scale, there is rhythm in stepping stones, or the marching uprights of a pergola. When the uprights are in opposite pairs, the rhythm is strongest. Heavy brick pillars will make the heaviest deliberate beat, whereas pairs of clipped top-headed trees, like the evergreen oaks at Hatfield House, will offer a lighter effect. Pergolas supports that are alternate rather than opposite are different again, and swing along from side to side in waltz rhythm.

Structural rhythm like this is easy enough to manage. But even in the serene spaces rhythm is present, and it shows most clearly in the use of colour. The repetition of strong colours can give just as much bounce to the scene as a line of topiary balls. There is a fine line, however, between giving a big border unity by using the same plant several times, and allowing those plants to recur at regular intervals on the first beat of every bar. But it is better to have those repeats in a border than not to have them at all. Used skilfully, a



The Long Border at Great Dixter, running alongside a path, is a symphony of passion and whooping horns orchestrated by Gertrude Jekyll

recurring plant will anchor a border and give it a sense of individuality. Repeated colour need not be in flowers. It could be in grey foliage plants, such as *Philomus fruticosa*, curly plant, *Salix elaeagnos* and *Stachys lanata*, some making strobs at the back and others a low pool of herbaceous colour at the front. It could be in the repeating of a fountain of tall, silver-green grasses, like varieties of *Miscanthus sinensis*.

The way to avoid the development of these turn-to-turn rhythms is to vary the position of a plant or colour within the border. So, for instance, if a border of shrub roses was to be interplanted with a second subject of the tall blue *Campanula latifolia*, then the campanula might be used not in regular spindles at the back or half-way back, but in several generous, unevenly spaced groups at the back, another somewhere halfway back, and the occasional satellite at the front. The satellites could be either the same tall variety as at the back, or perhaps a lower form such as 'Pouffe'. You might vary the



Tall shrubs spaced at regular intervals mark out an even rhythm

colour slightly too, using darker named forms such as royal blue 'Prichard's Variety' to give highlights in a general planting of the usual pale blues and mauves.

The rhythm of plants in a border depends to a great extent on the angle from which you look at it. If a border is meant to be seen square-on, then any regularly placed repeats will show clearly. It becomes all the more important then to have the various

groups in different shapes so that a regular and distracting pattern does not emerge.

On the other hand, if you see a border obliquely, perhaps from a path that runs immediately along the front of it, like the Long Border at Great Dixter in Sussex, then the need for a variety of group shapes is less strong. The picture is only glimpsed as a whole, and the pleasure comes as you walk along its unfolding narra-

tive of contrasts. It makes you focus on the detail of the planting in a more episodic manner. It requires more skill in the planting, but it is probably more satisfying to make: especially if the border is deep, because then as much thought has to go into the front-to-back relationships as goes into the side-to-side relationships.

Gertrude Jekyll, the abiding mistress of modern colour theory, liked borders to flow from pale colours through hot to cool again. Her eyesight was poor, and she was more interested in the general flow, the sequence of harmonies, than she was in rhythm. The perfect Jekyll border in long strips running the length of the border. Today her fixation on this linear approach seems obsessive, but you can imagine how this interweaving of long shapes could produce a border in which the changing harmony of colour was quite uninterrupted by the beat of a rhythm. The perfect Jekyll border is probably like Samuel Barber's flowing *Adagio for Strings*. The Long Border is more Strauss and *Till Eulenspiegel*, all passion and whooping horns.



Stop outdoor tomatoes after the fourth or fifth truss has set, but leave bush tomatoes alone. Ensure both are well supported to take the weight of fruit.

Yew and holly hedges clipped now should survive on one clipping a year, although a wet autumn may produce some further shoots.

Clumps of colchicum bulbs may be lifted and divided now. Replant individually, because they soon clump up again; even small bulbs flower quickly when given space of their own. Crown imperials (*Fritillaria imperialis*) can be planted now.

Complete any weedkilling on lawns this month so long as the soil is moist, and before the weather cools down and selective herbicides become less effective.

The widest choice of tulips is starting to be available in garden centres. Buy now, but keep cool and plant them any time up to December, as space becomes available. Most other bulbs are better planted straight away.

Evergreen trees and shrubs can be moved over the next month. Soak the roots first, a day or two in advance, and move on a

still, dull day. Plant evergreen hedges in well prepared trenches.

Prune out the flowered stems of loganberries and tie the new ones in place for next year. Space evenly to receive maximum ripening sun.

Take cuttings of plants in terrace pots too large to bring indoors for next season - for example, argyranthemum, pelargonium and tender salvia.

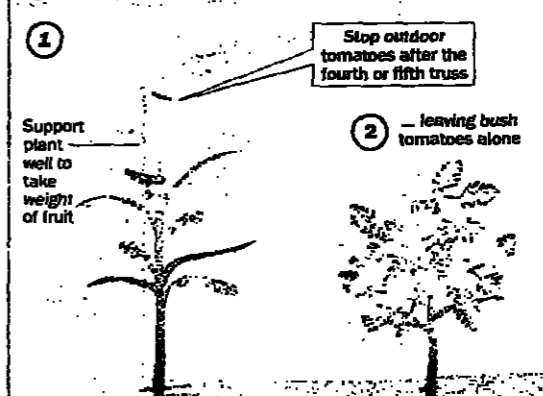
Ensure trailing plants bearing edible fruits, such as melons and kiwi fruit, are kept well fertilised and watered.

Water sweetcorn and irrigate consistently. When the tassels at the end of the cob begin to look brown and withered, pick the cob and eat it as soon as possible, while it is still fresh.

Sow lettuce seeds of the large-headed variety to eat in December. Thin seedlings and cover when colder climates prevail.

Take cuttings of herbs, such as sage and savory, and root in well shaded trays either inside greenhouses or outside under frames. Once rooted, replant in individual pots and shelter until placing outside in spring.

TIPS ON GROWING TOMATOES



THIS MONTH EVERYTHING'S COMING UP ROSES.

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هذه ايامنا الاولى



Jane Owen sets about trying to erect her greenhouse, but gets into a bit of a tangle and enlists the help of Paul Fievez, the photographer, and David Page of the manufacturers — along with five other men.

Magnificent Seven drama

Picture editor rings from *The Times* Weekend section. Holly wants a series of pictures showing each stage of the building process. Could I dismantle a couple of parts to show the stages? Dream on, Buster. "Oh, Holly," I say, "that's a good idea. The pictures might not come out exactly like that — things haven't gone exactly to plan. But I look forward to seeing the 'snapper' there."

Alan, my neighbour, arrives with drill to drill out the holes for the allegedly self-tapping screws, offers to get self-tapping

Jane Owen, triumphant, at the door (well, where the door will be once it has been put together) of her greenhouse

Decide to get lardy cake and tea, followed shortly by wine.

After two-hour struggle Paul has limited success with the door, takes some

Monday. Ring the makers of the Marlborough 6. David Page and Keith Mercer arrive from the company and finish the job. Both are realistic about the Marlborough 6: it is a brilliant construction (safer and probably more heat

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GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON

repplies to readers' letters

A Hygiene and prevention are the best and the only real cure for clubroot, a fungal disease seen as galls on the roots, and causing weak and damaged foliage above. Make sure you rotate the areas in which you grow brassicas (cabbages, swedes, turnips and radishes) and, if there is nowhere clean, avoid these crops for a few years. The disease can, however, linger in the soil for as long as 20 years. Make sure the soil is neutral (pH7) or slightly alkaline by adding lime as necessary, and ensure good drainage.

● Readers should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. We regret that that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that any enclosures cannot be returned.

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Wire Rake	£1
Swire	£2
Trowel	£1
Hand fork	£1
Hand shears	£15-£2
Secateurs	£20-£3
Bow saw (2lin)	£1
TOTAL	£134-£17

● **Burgon and Ball Classics**
Garden Shears are available
from some garden centres
about £15.99, or by mail
order, (£1.95 p&p) from
Burgon and Ball, LA Flats,
Works, Holmes Lane, Shel-
field S6 4JY.

● **The Light, Cheap, Mighty**
polycarbonate leaf rake is
available only by mail order
(UK, incl. post) from Better
Methods, Blunwood
House, Kimberley Road,
Parkmore, Poole, Dorset

carbonate rake, which is amazingly light and strong, and refuses to clog with leaves. Everyone needs hand shears. And it is worth getting a pair with a chopping notch at the back of the blade to save you switching to secateurs when you hit a hefty shoot.

Because everyone wants shears, you rarely see a decent pair on a market stall. The relatives have had them before the shed is cleared. Sometimes they are huge and strong, but ten times heavier than modern shears. Sometimes the hinge bolt is worn and you need to scissor away in mid-air to see if they become slack every ten flexes. A new bolt, washer and locknut may solve that.

The local market is the ideal place to buy a pick, and a big hammer for putting in stakes. The shafts may sometimes be dried out and brittle, but you can always replace them.

A saw is also a muss. The most multipurpose of saws is the 2 1/2 in. bow saw with a pointed end to let you get into tight corners. Sandvik makes some excellent saws and placement blades shears too.

Spend as much as you can on a pair of shears. Try Felco. If you can afford them. No gadgets, just good, high-quality steel and an adjustable hinge. Simpler still are the Burgin and Ball Chain Garden Shears, which are better on market sheep skins.

They are perfect for anything away of topology not banded, and dead-heading. But I hesitate to use them in areas where I hold in the left hand that which I want to cut with the right. The blades are not very sharp, and I am a fast worker. But I lost all my fingers to write this column.

designery. The blade is connected to the shaft only at one side, which allows you to slalom around among the plants, cutting just as efficiently.

Trowels and hand forks must be made of forged steel to last. If you are on soil with the texture of chocolate soufflé, those pressed-out versions will

do, but on spotted-dick clay they must be forged, with a blade which will not bend. Bulldog and Wilkinson are both excellent.

A wire leaf rake is essential in the flower garden, just as a flat Dutch rake is indispensable in the vegetable patch. The different kinds of rakes are legion. There are rakes

with detachable heads, rakes with slightly curved and bifurcated tines, and wooden grass rakes of biblical proportions. The most multipurpose of these is a cheap, simple winnagrass rake such as the Bulldog Spring rake.

Atop a listed building in Wandsworth, a former pop group manager has created an airy reminder of his West Coast days



Living the high life: John Hade with partner Krya Nowak and her daughter Zosia in the treetop living room that leads on to a sunny terrace

The Victorian architect T.E. Colcutt was no doubt revolving in his grave at the vision of a dormer window sprouting like a carbuncle from the roof of his five-storey mansion. Blame the Thompson Twins, or rather their former manager, John Hade, who was too busy masterminding the pop group's American chart success and tours to bother about the minutiae of planning regulations back home in Wandsworth, London.

The planners were rightly apologetic when they discovered that a builder hired by Hade had erected the most atrocious without permission. The dormer, they told Hade sternly, had to go because it marred the elegant lines of the Grade II listed house, built in 1879, in Nightingale Lane, southwest London.

Hade, 49, former manager of the cult synthesizer group (whose 1980s fame peaked with *Hald, Me, Now, Doctor Doctor* and *You Take Me Up*), bought the lease of the top two-storey flat in 1984. Because of the band's popularity in America, he commuted between Los Angeles and London, leaving ambitious plans for his flat in the hands of a designer-builder.

"It was a case of no expense spared in those heady days," says Hade nostalgically. "I gave him a free rein and when he promised me he'd applied for and received planning permission for the window, I believed him."

The whistle was blown by a neighbour who, peering at being refused permission for a similar dormer, insisted that the council should also give him the go-ahead to build one "just like the chap's next door".

California dreaming in a Gothic eyrie



The dining room has a Victorian fireplace and colour-washed walls that echo the terracotta of the kitchen tiles

Hade says: "When the planning official took me down the bottom of the garden and showed me what the dormer looked like from there, I had no argument with him. It looked horrific."

At the back of the building, all the lines are vertical and everything is taller than it is wide. But that dormer was 12ft wide and 6ft high. I immediately agreed it had to be ripped out. It had already cost

me £4,000, and now I had to spend another £6,000 on removing it and replacing it with an inverted dormer, whose width was defined to the last millimetre.

But he is delighted with the result: a sunny, south-facing terrace, with views over the plane trees to Crystal Palace, the twin towers of Ikea's Croydon store, and the South Downs in the distance. On a clear day you can see for ever,

or so it seems from this peaceful Gothic eyrie that is soundproofed against the incessant traffic trundling past its front.

"If you step out on to this balcony, it's three-quarters of the way to having a garden," says Hade who, as a friend of Kew, bids for exotic plant cuttings at the Royal Botanic Gardens' annual auction. "There's even room to have a dining table out here among the jasmine, honeysuckle and Virginia creeper. It's like having a top-floor patio."

As other flat-dwellers swelter in the summer heatwave, Hade, his partner Krya Nowak, her nine-year-old daughter Zosia, and four cats enjoy the treetop living room, with its high ceilings, exposed pine beams and forest of weeping fig, rubber and cheese plants.

"When I look up at a cloudless blue sky through the skylight in the dusty pink ceiling, it reminds me of California. I thought I'd made a terrible mistake with the wall colours at first. They looked like candy-floss pink until the plants and furniture and Indian wall hangings were in place," says Hade.

He also had a near-disaster with the ash floor. "I had it

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

- Flat D, 75 Nightingale Lane, Wandsworth, London SW12.
- Price: £275,000 leasehold.
- Travel: Clapham Common Tube, eight minutes' walk.
- Shopping: Sainsbury's, five minutes' drive; King's Road, Chelsea, 15 minutes' drive.
- Entertainment: Jongleurs Comedy Club and fringe theatre in nearby Battersea.
- Schools: private school; Roman Catholic state school; two primary schools.
- Parking: unrestricted.

varnished and the next morning I came up to admire it. Only to find the whole floor was lilac. Apparently it was a faulty batch of varnish, but at least the company paid for the floor to be redone.

The 25ft by 16ft reception room is dominated by a massive baronial fireplace, whose design Hade sketched on a beer mat. He says: "I came from a working-class background, so when I visited friends' six-bedroomed houses with their huge inglenook fireplaces I said to myself, 'one

day I'm going to have one'. It has Christmas and Dickens written all over it."

Hade, who left the pop world to write and make furniture, wants a change of scene: a ten-acre farm in Devon and a hand-made furniture business. "I want a stress-free life," he says.

So it's goodbye to the Wandsworth flat, its open kitchen with terracotta tiles, their colour echoed in the washed walls of the adjoining dining room, with black quarry-style tiles, pretty magnolia-tilled Victorian fireplace and narrow balcony. Also on this first level are the main and second bedrooms, a black-and-white marble bathroom with sunken whirlpool bath and closer shower. Nowak, an upholsterer, has hand-painted the windows of the bathroom and separate lavatory with a green and yellow leaf pattern.

On the second level is a third bedroom, a small study and the airy reception room with its approved roof terrace. At least Colcutt, architect of the Savoy Hotel and the Palace Theatre, can rest in peace.

GILL MARTIN

● Agents: Douglas & Gordon (0181-673 0911).



The house designed by T.E. Colcutt, architect of the Savoy hotel and Palace Theatre

PROPERTY PROFILE: OXFORDSHIRE

ATTRACTIONS: Oxford's dreaming spires are not the county's sole boast. Woodstock and Blenheim Palace, home to a succession of Dukes of Marlborough, are attractions in their own right, as are the fabled Vale of the White Horse, where St George is said to have slain his dragon, and Uffington Castle. Most buyers are looking for village property, particularly around Beaulieu, near Oxford, and further afield, in villages like the Baldons, Tiddesley and Stanton St John. Much of the county is solid commuter belt, with regular trains into Paddington, as well as the M40 and A34.

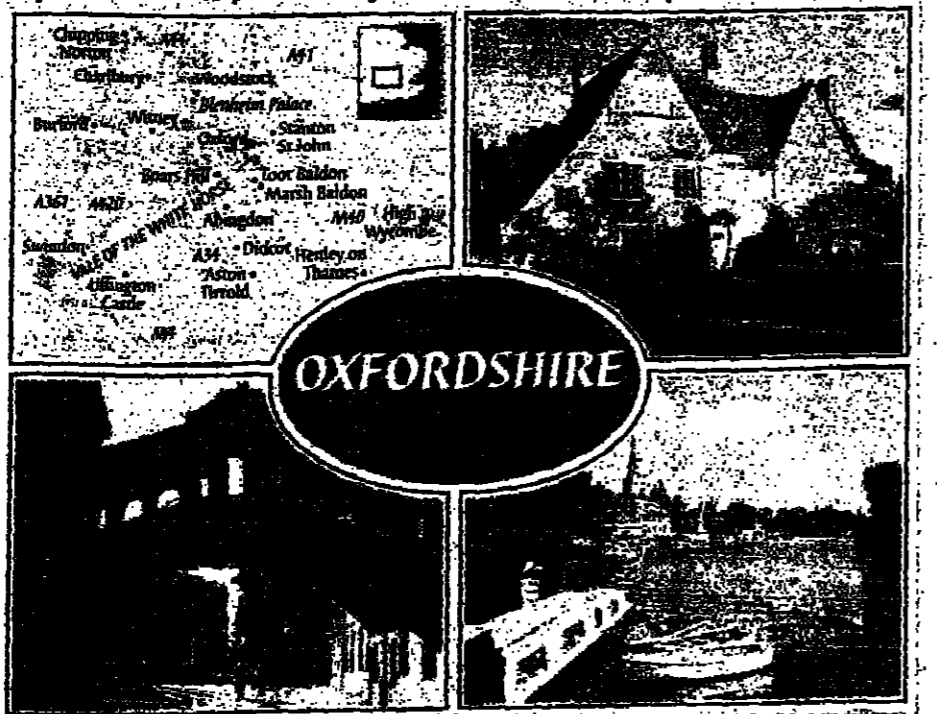
THE MARKET: Prices have risen by 20 to 25 per cent over the past year, according to Cluttons in Oxford. Despite the August lull, many buyers are out in force, with demand far exceeding supply. The three Cotswold offices of Jackson-Stops & Staff have 2,000 applicants for 40 properties, half of which are under offer. Clegg Kennedy, Drew in Charlbury says the top end of the market has been "buzzing" for 12 months, with many would-be buyers looking to rent until they can find the right property. They reckon around 50 per cent of buyers are

from London. Prices fell by 15 per cent to 20 per cent from 1989 to Autumn of 1993, according to John D. Wood & Co in Oxford. Hamptons International in Henley on Thames reckon demand has increased sharply since 1996.

EXPECT TO PAY: Between £160,000 to £220,000 for a three-bedroom cottage, from £400,000 to £650,000 for a farmhouse with land, and from £500,000 to £1 million for a manor house in five acres, says Cluttons. Properties between Oxford, Chipping Norton and Burford can command 15 per cent premiums, say Jackson-Stops in Burford.

SIGNIFICANT SALES: Walcot Manor, near Charlbury, was sold in four weeks by Cluttons earlier this year. Lot 1, a country house with ten acres went for £695,000; lot 2, a pair of cottages, went for £125,000 and £130,000 each.

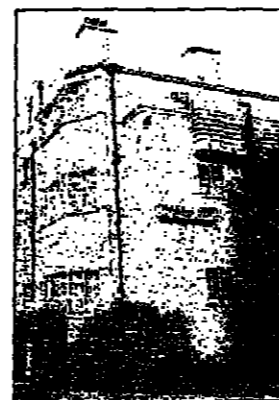
OUTLOOK: Supply will increase, according to Hamptons International, but will not meet demand. Jackson-Stops says the market is calming down after a period of intense activity. ● Next week: Surrey



CELEBRITY NEIGHBOURS IN CLAPHAM



IAN HISLOP, editor of *Private Eye*, lives with his wife Victoria and two children in a Victorian terrace, less than five minutes walk from Wandsworth Common. The house is close to the many restaurants and shops on Bellevue Road. Neighbouring houses are currently fetching as much as £800,000.



VIVIENNE WESTWOOD, fashion designer, shares the home she has lived in for over 20 years with her husband Andreas Kronthaler. The two-bedroom flat is part of a 1930s former council block in Clapham and is ideally situated for Westwood to be able to cycle to and from her Battersea-based head office.



SUSANNAH YORK, the actress, lives in a five-bedroom Victorian house. One of a line of identical houses, it has a secluded garden, four times the size of her neighbours, and incorporates an orchard, lawns and a line of poplars. The interior has survived children and animals and is lived in but warm.

HOMESWAP

What the same money will buy around the country



This ground-floor two-bedroom flat in an end-of-terrace red-brick period house, with direct access to communal gardens, in Sloane Court East, off the Royal Hospital Road, London SW3, will set you back £275,000 for a 52 year lease. (Chesterons, 0171 569 4885.)



For even less (£250,000) you could buy Furdon, a seven-bedroom detached thatched period cottage in 2.75 acres of garden and paddocks, in a rural setting, near Hittisleigh, Devon. It comes with outbuildings and panoramic views over the Dartmoor National Park. (JA Town & Country, 01392 427070.)



In Scotland, £250,000 will buy you Ardshiel Lodge, a refurbished eight-bedroom Victorian highland sporting lodge in 22 acres of woodland and rough grazing, fronting Loch Shiel, near Acharacle, Argyll. The price includes a two-bedroom converted byre and the right to fish for salmon and sea trout from a boat. (Savills, 0131 226 6981.)

CHERYL TAYLOR



The Phipps swapped their flat at market value for a new, two-bedroom, two-bathroom Barratt house

Trading places made easy

Some builders will take your old home in part exchange for a new one, saving the bother of selling, writes Cheryl Taylor

When the housing market seems rife with horror stories of for-bidding prices, property deserts, broken house-chains and gazumping, many people, particularly those who are having trouble selling or need to move fast, are finding a solution to their problems in a little-advertised sector of the market — part-exchange.

By trading in your old home for a new one, you can escape estate agents' fees and the hassle of selling. Some builders also offer cash incentives to pay for legal and survey fees and help with arranging a mortgage. And the whole transaction can take a week or less to complete. However, many builders are reluctant to advertise a scheme that was introduced when the market was depressed in the 1970s, but which in a booming market would seem to hold more advantages for the customer than the builder.

Part-exchange deals generate a second, spin-off market in old homes that have been traded in. While most building companies pass on the older homes they acquire to local building societies to re-sell, Barratt, who pioneered the part-exchange concept in the 1970s, buys and re-sells 3,000 properties a year through its own showrooms.

"In that sense we are one of the biggest estate agents in Britain," says David Pretty, chairman of Barratt Southern.

When trading old for new, most builders insist that buyers trade up to a house or flat worth at least 30 per cent more than their old home.

As a general rule, the builder agrees to a price based on two or three independent valuations, though it is worth remembering that these may well be lower than prices achieved on the open market.

A few builders pay 100 per cent of the valuation; others will knock off between 5 and 10 per cent to cover resale costs. The builder may claim that your property was not priced to sell or in poor condition and offer a lower price, in which case you could end up with a low price for your own house and pay over the odds for a new one. So always insist on having your own valuation carried out by a chartered surveyor.

Wimpey and Fairview have part-exchange schemes on selected sites and both offer 100 per cent of an independent valuation, as does Barratt, which also offers £500 towards legal and survey fees on selected properties, and second-buyer discounts for those who trade up from a Barratt home. Buyers who purchase a new house off-plan from Cala Homes are given a guaranteed part-exchange price of 100% of an agreed valuation, if they cannot sell their existing property on the open market before their new home is ready.

Berkeley Homes offers an underwriting scheme to minimise risks for those buying from plan. "We underwrite about 10 per cent of our business," says Paul Vallone, group sales and marketing director. "It enables people to move regardless of market conditions and diminishes stress for the purchaser." Berkeley will buy your existing home for



Clarendon Gate, the new development near Woodham, Surrey

90 per cent of the mid-valuation from three estate agents, provided the property you are buying is worth 35 per cent more.

McCarthy & Stone, Britain's biggest sheltered housing group, also has a part-exchange scheme that accounts for a third of all sales. It is aimed at retired people who want to trade down (or up, or across) to a purpose-built retirement home, but are daunted by the

prospect of upheaval. The company will buy an existing home, based on independent valuations, but will knock off an unspecified sum to cover its costs.

Barratts sells on many of the older houses and flats it gains through part-exchange under the label Oak Leaf Properties. These are available to buyers with many of the benefits usually only available on new homes. The properties will have been redecorated, repairs carried out and carpets laid, at no extra charge. You can even part-exchange your existing home — at up to 100 per cent of an independent valuation — for one of these older homes, and Barratt will take care of legal and survey costs up to £500 on selected Oak Leaf properties. Older homes are available in a choice of locations at prices from £32,000 for a one-bedroom flat in Tyneside to £200,000 for a detached house in Kent.

"These homes are always priced to sell and represent excellent value for money," says Mr Pretty.

● Barratt Homes, 0345 626364; Wimpey Homes 0181 743 2020; Cala Homes, 0794 460333; Berkeley Homes 01959 561499; McCarthy & Stone, 01322 292480.

A FAMILY OF FAST MOVERS

NICK PHIPPS, a former British hobsleigh champion, is used to things moving fast, so when he and his wife Harriet were still struggling to sell their old flat more than a year after it went on the market, they began to wonder if they would ever find a new home for their two young children, Jack, two, and ten-month-old Olivia.

The Phipps family had been living in a small flat in a converted building in Woodham, Surrey, for two years

and put it up for sale when it became impractical for children. During the months it was on the market a promising sale fell through, adding to their misery. Then they discovered a new Barratt development, Clarendon Gate, a development of 69 houses built on the site of the old Ottershaw hospital, a short distance away from their former home at Woodham.

They put down a deposit on a two-bedroom, terraced house and Barratt bought their home for its full market

value. "Barratt paid us £79,950 for our old flat, which was the middle valuation from three estate agents, and we didn't have to pay agent's fees," says Mrs Phipps, a sports consultant.

Their brand new £99,000 house has two bedrooms, one with an en suite bathroom in addition to the family bathroom, a lounge/dining room, fully fitted kitchen and a downstairs cloakroom.

CHERYL TAYLOR


THE GUILD OF PROFESSIONAL ESTATE AGENTS

<p>EAST HORSLEY, SURREY £475,000 A luxurious house built by Lord Leighton in 1874. 2 detached guest cottages within the grounds. 3 beds, en suite bathroom, heated reception area. Henshaws Estate Agents, 25 High Street, Epsom, Surrey, Surrey TW20 2JH. T: 01893 287571</p>	<p>GT KINGSBILL, BEDS OIRO £340,000 A delightful brick and flint cottage thought to date c.1820, approx. 200 years, featuring a characterful interior with 4 beds, impressive lounge with inglenook, superb garden. Jenkins Newman Partnership, 100 Epsom Road, Epsom, Surrey, Surrey TW20 2JH. T: 01893 287571</p>	<p>RICKMANSWORTH, HERTS C. £600,000 Extensive country home, on a level plot, surrounded by acres of farmland, offering anonymity in a picturesque setting. TREB & THOMAS 4 QUEEN'S PARADE, HIGH STREET, RICKMANSWORTH, HERTS WD11 1EE. T: 01923 773618</p>	<p>FLACKWELL HEATH, BEDS £420,000 A substantial 5 bedroom, 3 bathroom home of quality situated in a desirable location overlooking Flackwell Heath Golf Course. Close to J3 M40. WICKHAM & PARTNERS, ACORN HOUSE, 12 STRAIGHT BRT, FLACKWELL HEATH, BEDS HP10 9LS. T: 01628 851300</p>	<p>HOOK HEATH, WOKING £545,000 An immaculately presented detached house set in a little over half an acre of superbly maintained grounds in the heart of Hook Heath. WATERHALL DURANT & BARKLEY, 44 COMMERCIAL WAY, WOKING, SURREY GU24 1HW. T: 01483 773773</p>
<p>HASTINGSWOOD, ESSEX OIRO £1,000,000 Elegant and 17th century house standing in about 21 acres with water, fine views, facilities. House plus outbuildings, swimming pool, outbuildings. Henshaws & Partners, 25 High Street, Epsom, Surrey, Surrey TW20 2JH. T: 01893 287571</p>	<p>BARTON ON SEA, HAMPSHIRE £159,950 A most attractive and extremely well presented three style bungalow, standing in superb grounds, in prime residential location, near Milton and Barton-on-Sea. MURPHY & HUNT, 100 Epsom Road, Epsom, Surrey, Surrey TW20 2JH. T: 01893 287571</p>	<p>UPPER COLWYN BAY, WALES £450,000 Undoubtedly one of the finest properties in the North Wales area, commanding breathtaking views to the Conwy Mountains with Anglesey in the distance. STURGES ESTATE AGENTS, 31 CUNY ROAD, COLWYN BAY, N. WALES LL29 7AA. T: 01492 534477</p>	<p>ALDINGBOURNE, SUSSEX £159,950 Period property with extensive rural views situated in a popular quiet location with parking, 2 bedrooms, 2 reception, secluded pretty garden. SINE WILLIAMS 8 SOUTHGATE, CHICHESTER, SUSSEX PO19 1ES. T: 01243 878868 F: 01243 531255</p>	<p>HELSEY, CHESHIRE £205,000 Superb executive residence providing exceptional family accommodation. Occupying an enviable elevated fringe village position. ALLSOP 105 NORLEY ROAD, CLUTTONTON, NORTHWICH, CHESHIRE CW9 2LE. T: 01606 882869 F: 01606 889414</p>
<p>SOMERSET, NR BATH GUIDE £275,000 An attractive detached four style property, quite located 14 miles from Bath and set in extensive private grounds extending to 4 acres. Dale & Partners, 11 Quiet Street, Bath BA1 2LB. T: 01225 462215 F: 01225 445737</p>	<p>BATH GUIDE £385,000 A substantial double fronted Georgian town house situated in a convenient position in the heart of the village. The property has been renovated to a high standard. Pritchard & Partners, 11 Quiet Street, Bath BA1 2LB. T: 01225 462215 F: 01225 445737</p>	<p>CATHERINE PLACE GUIDE £390,000 A completely luxurious Georgian town house overlooking the Square and adjacent to the Royal Crescent. Accommodation on 5 floors in excellent order throughout. PRITCHARD & PARTNERS, 11 QUIET STREET, BATH BA1 2LB. T: 01225 462215 F: 01225 445737</p>	<p>SOMERSET - AUCTION 5 SEP 1997 A Grade II listed limestone farmhouse in a village situation with gardens and orchard together with a range of traditional farm buildings with PP for conversion. TRG LAWRENCE ESTATE AGENTS 20 PRINCESS STREET, YEOVIL, SOMERSET BA20 1EW. T: 01935 410777</p>	<p>SOMERSET GUIDE £250,000 A brand new 4 bedroom house with 0.4 acre. Glorious views over open countryside. TRG LAWRENCE ESTATE AGENTS 20 PRINCESS STREET, YEOVIL, SOMERSET BA20 1EW. T: 01935 410777</p>
<p>EPHING, ESSEX £825,000 A most delightful period property situated in secluded location, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms plus shower room, games room, swimming pool, tennis court, 3 acres. Dale & Partners, 11 Quiet Street, Bath BA1 2LB. T: 01225 462215 F: 01225 445737</p>	<p>WATERLOO, DENMEAD £385,000 Residence set in landscaped grounds with indoor pool complex, 5 bedrooms, 4 reception, 4 en suite bathrooms, 2 kitchens, central heating, double garage. Pritchard & Partners, 11 Quiet Street, Bath BA1 2LB. T: 01225 462215 F: 01225 445737</p>	<p>WEST SQUARE, SE11 £475,000 Three fine Georgian houses overlooking the gardens in West Square. The houses are being completely refurbished to a very high standard. DANIEL SMITH REYNOLDS, 191 KENDALL LANE, LONDON SE11 3QS. T: 0171 739910 F: 0171 5823475</p>	<p>LEATHERHEAD, SURREY GUIDE £675,000 Sited in much sought after Givens Grove private estate with heated swimming pool, summer house, double garage, secluded south facing landscaped grounds. ANDREW LODGE ESTATE AGENTS 10 NORTH STREET, LEATHERHEAD, KT22 7AW. T: 01372 378888</p>	<p>COOMBESIDE £240,000 An impressive detached bungalow, modernised and improved in recent years, benefiting from 110ft westerly aspect rear garden. Set in peaceful surroundings. LORDS 406 RICHMOND ROAD, HAM, KINGSTON, SURREY KT2 5PU. T: 0181 5466699</p>

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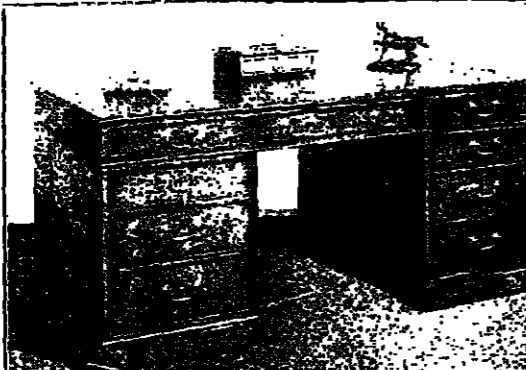
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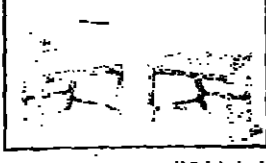
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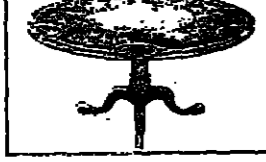
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
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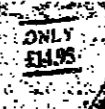
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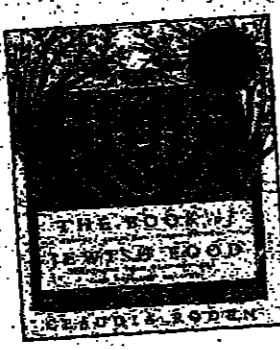
Special foods used at Jewish festivals observe dietary rules dating from the Dispersion nearly 2,000 years ago which meant that Jews were prevented from eating outside their community, avoiding the threat of assimilation

Just like momma used to make

Med Brooks has a story about his days as a comedian in the Borscht Belt, that string of Jewish hotels and boarding houses in New York's Catskill Mountains. Working there in the late 1940s, he claims to have saved many Jewish lives by going around after meals trying to stop replete elderly Jewish gentlemen, relaxing in rocking chairs, from singing the hit song *Dancing in the Dark* — or at least getting them to sing in a lower key.

The middle section has some notoriously difficult high notes and, in trying to reach them, these gentlemen, full of borscht, chopped liver, roast chicken, potato latkes, blintzes and strudel would clutch their chests and go down like flies. Brooks is, of course, talking of when Jewish cooking did not pull its punches, long before the nightmare of cholesterol-consciousness and weight watchers.

In terms of dead and dying Jews, Brooks may have been taking comedian's licence, but Jewish food can be rich and heavy and, in large quantities, a health hazard. The Borscht Belt — by combining food, Jews and comedians — inevitably gave birth to jokes about Jews and their gastronomic and digestive preoccupations. From there it was a mere hop, skip and an "Oy, I think I've twisted my ankle" to the Jewish mother joke, also largely based on her preoccupation with food.



Traditionally, it was the matrifamilias who had the power, which she wielded from mission control in the kitchen. Her constant exhortation to family and guests was: "Have some more. What's the matter, you don't like it?" All these strands come together in the New York story (circa 1975) about Mr. Levy phoning his psychiatrist at four in the morning.

"Dr. Goldfarb, I'm sorry to disturb you, but I've had a terrible dream."

"It's all right," says Dr. Goldfarb, grinning his teeth. "What was it?"

"I dreamt you were my mother."

"Very interesting. So?"

"I couldn't get back to sleep, so I got up and made some breakfast."

"Good. What did you have?"

"A cup of coffee, a piece of toast."

"A cup of coffee, a piece of toast?" Dr. Goldfarb screams back. "What sort of breakfast is that for a grown man?"

The characters in all these stories are Ashkenazi Jews, the

The world's Jewish cooking has been distilled into one comprehensive volume. **Stanley Price** looks back at a culinary tradition controlled by dietary laws and spiced with jokes and wonders why more of us don't try it

food that is talked about is Ashkenazi and, as with all the best Ashkenazi stories, fear and paranoia are just around the corner — and justifiably so. The Ashkenazim, of Central and Eastern Europe, formed 75 per cent of the world's Jewish population in the last half of the 19th century. Most lived within the repressive Russian Empire, including the Baltic countries and most of Poland.

My own four grandparents, then unmarried, left Lithuania and went to Ireland, a place I doubt they had heard of before. My paternal grandfather was en route to America, but was so seasick that he got off at Cork. I think the other three grandparents could not afford the fare to America. They stayed, bringing little with them except their religious orthodoxy and their Ashkenazi cooking.

In Ireland I alternated between grandparental homes each Friday night and had my introduction to the nearly 100 per cent chicken dinner — chopped chicken liver followed by chicken soup, with supposedly miraculous medicinal properties, and its rich islands of kreplach or knaidlach (dumplings), followed by the chicken itself, roasted and stuffed.

Once asked why we did not finish off with chicken ice-cream, not a successful joke. One of the basics of *kashrut*, the dietary laws, is not mixing meat and milk, and if you came from the poor life of a Russian *shetl* you did not joke about chickens either. A good, fat chicken was a luxury and every bit was used.

There were also all-fish nights, starting with chopped herring and followed by gefilte fish, different chopped fresh fish formed into balls and boiled or fried. All this food seemed subject to the principle that if you can't chop it, stuff it. Polish Jews did both, stuffing a whole carp with other chopped fish. I wondered if maybe in the old country

many Jewish teeth were not too good on solids. My mother, who learnt to cook Vilna-style from her mother, had low self-esteem when it came to gefilte fish. If one complimented her on it, she always said her mother or Aunt Sarah did it better, or that if only you'd come last Friday... And, like many good cooks, she was highly critical of other people's food.

She could well have been one of the Jewish women in the story (circa 1996) having lunch in a smart restaurant. They are approached by the head waiter who asks: "Is anything all right, ladies?"

"Then the waiter asked: Is anything all right ladies?"

Behind all the tradition and self-mocking jokes lies the serious matter of the all-inhibiting dietary laws. A minority of British Jews now keep strictly "kosher" kitchens, but many observe some form of prohibition, and would draw the line at pig in any form. In the old countries, and even among first immigrants, the *kashrut* were strictly observed. Whether a Jew believed that the laws were divinely ordained or merely a complex hygienic code devised by far-sighted rabbis at the time of the Dispersion in the 1st century, there is no question that they were an ingenious survival kit. If your meat has to be slaughtered in a certain way and you cannot eat numerous foods or mix many others, you are

prevented from eating outside your own home and community. *Kashrut* is thus a weapon against the threat of assimilation.

It took me a long time to realise that the Ashkenazi were not the only Jews in the universe. There were Sephardi too, those Spanish and Portuguese Jews who were expelled from Spain in 1492. They took their highly developed culture and fanned out round the Mediterranean and farther afield.

The Sephardi communities of the Mediterranean and Middle East inevitably developed their own distinctive cuisine, though still, of course, governed by the dietary laws.

Claudia Roden, the cookery writer and broadcaster, born



A shopkeeper prepares kosher food: curiously, such cuisine has had virtually no influence on non-Jewish eating

and brought up in Cairo, comes from this tradition. She has spent 16 years researching Jewish food from all parts of the world. The result is *The Book of Jewish Food*, a compendium of gastronomic history, food lore and more than 800 recipes. "Ashkenazi foods came from a cold world," she writes, "a world of chicken fat, onion and garlic, cabbage, carrots and potatoes, freshwater fish, especially carp and salt herring. The Sephardi world is a warm one of peppers and aubergine, courgette and tomatoes, rice and cracked wheat, saltwater fish and olive oil."

Despite her vast research, it is easy to see where Roden's heart still is. Though there are twice as many Ashkenazi as Sephardi Jews in the world, the reverse is true of the number of pages and recipes devoted to each in Roden's book. My own tastes in Jewish food are catholic, but I think of my grandparents and others and know there will be much turning in Ashkenazi graves.

If it comes to competitive gastronomy, I imagine a kitchen of Sephardi cooks might triumph over an Ashkenazi team with the subtlety of their

flavours and the exoticism of their ingredients. But if it came to a straight fight, my money would be on a direct hit from a lockshen pudding or a volley of flying knaidlach — fatal for any Sephardi already weakened by too much sunshine and olive oil.

What emerges from Roden's research is that although influenced by the surrounding

cultures, Jewish food, because of the dietary laws, has maintained its own distinctive character. More oddly, however, and not commented on by Roden, is how Jewish food and cuisine have had virtually no influence on non-Jewish eating. The British are notoriously conservative when it comes to eating habits, but now most are happily eating Indian, Chinese, Italian, Greek and Thai. Is there some odd, inexplicable feeling that with Jewish food comes the salt of affliction?

I am not at all sure who really reads cookbooks, but Roden's is a superior one. If its effect is to bring gefilte fish to the gentile kitchen and latke takeaways to the high street, she will be in Heaven, as the prophets say, sitting on the right hand of God.

BORSCHT

2lb (1kg) raw beetroot
salt and pepper
Juice of one lemon
2 tbsp sugar or to taste
4 peeled boiled potatoes
(optional)
1 cup (250ml) sour cream
to pass around

Peel and slice beetroot. If they are young, this is easy. If they are old and too hard to dice, cut them in half and, when they have softened with boiling, lift them out, cut them up and put them back in the pan. Put the beets in a pan with 9 cups (2 litres) of water and salt and pepper and simmer for 1½ hours. Let the soup cool, then chill, covered, in the refrigerator. Add the lemon and sugar to taste before serving (these could be added when the soup is hot, but it is more difficult to determine the intensity of the flavouring). Remove some of the beet pieces if they seem too much and keep them for a salad.

Serve, if you like, with a boiled potato, putting one in each plate. Pass around the sour cream for all to help themselves.



Momma's good cooking for Jewish New Year

Cooling recipes for hot dogs

They don't go mad in the midday sun but they do suffer like the rest of us, says James Allcock

Out in the midday sun this week, four-year-old Lucy Jones from Greater Manchester was badly bitten by a Springer spaniel. The spaniel had been bought the day before and had been described by her breeder as "placid".

Lucy has my sympathy and best wishes. I hope that there won't be any residual scars, mental or physical, and that she'll come back to enjoying dogs and dog-owning at some time in the future.

After the attack, Chief Inspector John Carling said: "It is always a risk to leave young children with animals, but particularly when the pet is new."

He's absolutely right: this advice has been given thousands of times previously. But Mr Carling went on to say: "The hot weather affects animals like it does people, and they may be more likely to attack than when it's cooler."

With all due respect, Chief Inspector, I don't know what evidence



Lucy Jones and her parents: a 12-month-old was the wrong dog

you have for that statement. I'm not aware that animal behaviour looms large in police training courses. My suspicion is that this was the wrong dog to buy — a 12-month-old from a breeder has had very little or no opportunity to socialise with young children and may well have led a kennel life.

Noel Coward's *Mad Dogs and Englishmen* has wonderful lyrics, but this is hardly evidence. Sane and non-rabid dogs snooze in the midday sun, in the shadiest place they can find. Attack is the last thing on their minds. It would involve exertion and energy. In extreme heat it's too much trouble even to eat until it's dark — as the newly-enobled Roy Hattersley testifies with his goose-chasing bull terrier, Buster.

"Buster isn't keen on the heat," says Hattersley. "He doesn't eat much. And in the park every morning, where seven or eight dogs congregate, he doesn't run around as normal. He just sits under the trees. He plods home like a dog of 85, even though he's only two."

Hattersley says that Buster's problem hitherto has been hyperactivity. "But at the moment he looks as if he is pretending to be a tiger when he's at home."

Last year, during a similar heatwave, Dame Barbara Cartland said that her beloved poodle, Mimi, who died last week, found

the temperatures overbearing. Mimi would normally sleep either on Dame Barbara's bed or on a pink mattress in her bedroom. "For the first time," she said, "he took to sleeping in the fireplace. It was for the through draught."

Draught is helpful, but water is an imperative in this hot weather. It should be available throughout the day, although dogs don't drink a lot more in tropical temperatures than in cool ones. Paul O'Grady (or the television personality Lily Savage) has been putting rock sulphur in the dog water to keep his shih-tzu, also called Buster, cool. "You can buy it from the local pet shop as a block and chip it off," he says. "It stops him panting."

I'm sorry to say, Paul, that you're wasting your money. It's an old wives' tale that simply has no effect. Rock sulphur is totally insoluble in water and doesn't do anything.

Dogs lose very little water by perspiring — the only sweat glands are on the tongue and between the toes — and panting, which is blowing out hot air, is the most important part of a dog's cooling system, followed by radiation from the skin. Any hot dog will lie flat out on his back, with his hairless tummy exposed so that any passing breeze can blow away some of the



Roy Hattersley and Buster: "He plods home like a dog of 85, even though he's only two years old"

excess heat. Peter Purves, the former *Blue Peter* presenter turned dog magazine editor, tells me he has shaved the stomach of his 13-stone Newfoundland, Gulliver.

Every year a few dogs die from heat stroke — many of which are left, thoughtlessly, by their owners in a parked car. This is because, once the air temperature gets above 94°F (34°C), which it will be in a car, the air breathed in is nearly as hot as the air breathed out and very little heat is lost by radiation. The

dog's temperature starts to rise because its body is generating heat — if it rises to above 107°F (42°C), 5°F above normal, it's critical, and, unless that dog is removed to a much cooler place, it will be in trouble.

Cold water on its feet and abdomen will help, as will a hose-pipe shower, which could be a lifesaver. A dog suffering from heat stroke will need to see a vet, of course, but an immediate cooling-down is the answer.

If Lucy hadn't had a horrible experience I wouldn't be writing this. Parents of other Lucys, Alfies, Johns or Simons should look for a young puppy, seven or eight weeks old, as the first dog, so that the two- and four-legged youngsters can grow up together.

And a well-chosen, well-socialised pup will grow up knowing its bottom, of the pack, and knowing that its young owner is there to be obeyed, perhaps protected, but never harmed.

A VET WRITES

I read that some scientists reported an increased incidence of lung cancer in people who keep caged birds in their houses. Is this so?

A paper published in 1988 suggested it, but as far as I am aware no one has followed it up or taken it very seriously. It was a survey in Holland of 49 lung cancer patients, 48 of whom were smokers. The one non-smoker kept cage birds. There is a possibility of catching ornithosis — a lung infection — from birds carrying this disease. Newly-imported parrots can be a source of trouble, but I don't believe there's any risk from healthy caged birds.

My Cavalier King Charles bitch has had an irritation on her lower jaw and under her chin for a year. The skin in this area is very pink and she rubs and paws at it continually. I've taken her to the vet and he suggested bathing her lips with dilute hydrogen peroxide, which made her vomit, and prescribed an ointment followed by an oil. Neither helped. Both were labelled "for external use only", so I used them sparingly because I was afraid she might swallow some. Her teeth have been checked: nothing wrong there. What can I do?

Your description suggests "labial eczema" or "skin-fold dermatitis", caused by saliva or sticky food accumulating in the folds of skin beneath her chin. I don't think peroxide made her vomit; it acts by releasing oxygen, which has no emetic properties. Panic plus excess salivation are more credible causes. "For external use only" does not imply a risk if tiny quantities are swallowed. It means don't pour it down her throat. My suggestions: Wash her face with gentle toilet soap or mild shampoo to remove all goosy material from the wrinkles below her chin. Ask your vet if the folds of skin could be flattened out by plastic surgery, and if cutting a small notch in her upper canine (eye) teeth would stop saliva running down them on to her lips. Avoid gravy-soaked foods, which leave traces round her mouth, and keep her biscuit dish as far as possible from her water bowl. Eating biscuits when her face is wet can create an adhesive paste. This sticks to the hair round her lips and adds to the general goosy mess.

Is it true that many white cats are deaf?

A There's an inherited deafness in certain white cats, especially those with two blue eyes. White cats with one blue and one orange eye may be deaf on the blue side but not on the orange side.

JAMES ALLCOCK

PETS IN THE SUN

Walk dogs before the sun is up or in the evening. Provide plenty of water. Never leave them in cars.

Move fish tanks and metal hamster cages out of direct sunlight on window sills. Don't leave budgerigars in the sun either.

Fish in outdoor ponds can suffer. Run water from a hosepipe into the pond or even aerate the water with a stick. Don't switch off fountains or waterfalls when going on holiday.

Cats' ears and pigs' backs are vulnerable to sunburn. Dab on some sunblock and encourage the pigs to wallow.

Fan mail is pouring in for the star of the new BBC series *Vets in Practice* but he has eyes only for work

Animal magnetism

Down on the farm I am looking at a perfect breed: nice even teeth, long lashes, strong hind-quarters and skin in good condition. I am faced with the back end of six Friesian cows lined up for inspection, but Steve Leonard, star of the new BBC series *Vets in Practice*, is the animal I am really interested in.

Leonard has become the most desirable vet in Britain, and hundreds of women have been sending fan mail and offering themselves as dates. Seeing him in action, the animal attraction is obvious. Not only is this newly qualified vet a professional, having studied nearly every night since he was 16 to get the academic qualifications, but he is sensitive, too — the sort of chap that every mother dreams her daughter will marry.

"You have to be sensitive to do this sort of work," Steve says, gamely inspecting the insides of a cow. "When the cow sighs around the top of your arm it cuts off the blood

supply and then it's hard to feel anything." It is clear why Steve was an ideal candidate for the original BBC series *Vet School*. His three brothers are all vets, his father is one and his mother would like to have been. "But it was difficult looking after four boys under five," he explains.

His winning smile and the fact that he tended to get his kit off and display his torso regularly (apparently the most hygienic way to scrub up before calving) also meant that he was voted one of *Company* magazine's top 50 bachelors. Not that girls interest him as much as four-legged beasts. "I went to London for the Bachelors' Ball, but I didn't care for it," he says. "I played up to this image of a dim-witted northerner, and I wore a horrible checked tie and shirt."

Steve is not dim-witted (the is, if anything, a little over-confident), nor is he really a "northerner", having been born in Northern Ireland and brought up in Cheshire until he was 16, when he was sent to King's School, Chester. "My



Paul Leonard prepares to inspect the rear end of a cow

parents are both from working-class backgrounds, but they decided that, to give us the best shot at getting into vet school, we should all go to a private sixth form. "Steve is on call three weekends in five, and on regular night duty. A typical weekend can see him called out on a Friday night to

resuscitate a cat that has been poisoned by weed killer, performing emergency surgery on animals that have been crushed in car accidents and advising on abortive procedures for a herd of disease-stricken cows. It can be stressful especially when he has to put animals down.

Although Steve has a house and car that come with the job, he sees a lot more muck than he does money, earning about £15,000.

As a result, his life is far from glamorous: in his spare time, if he is not playing rugby or basketball at the end of a hard day, he usually goes home and falls asleep in front of the television.

He has no complaints about being a bachelor, however, as he lives life exactly as he wants to. Not only does he have strict beliefs about eating animals and using them for medical research — he is a vegetarian and a firm believer in complementary medicine — but he does not drink, and cannot understand men going out with girls just for the sake of it. "I'm not saying I'd turn down Miss Perfect, but at the moment I'm quite happy on my own," he says.

One gets the distinct impression that Steve's Miss Perfect would have to emulate his mother. "Mum has always

been a social reactionary and would never let things go. She now lectures at Keele University. She was the main driving force behind all of us."

Steve admits that he lacks the social graces to impress the ladies in London (one fashion editor at the *Bachelors' Ball* said "this man needs a good woman"), but he is at least socially aware. Aged five, he had ambitions to become a priest, but since then he has only ever wanted to be a vet. "You wouldn't do it for the money. It's a way of life," he explains.

He knows he is doing something for society, too. The code of conduct for vets says that they have to treat animals, even though they know the owners will often not be able to pay the bill. "But it's still important that we do that, even if it's emotional blackmail," he says.

Steve is probably one of the most emotionally stable young men you could hope to meet — and a lot of it probably has to do with his apparent disinterest in girls.

"The best female company are my three cats at home," he says, grinning. "They're very affectionate and they don't argue back."

VICTORIA O'BRIEN

Vets in Practice starts twice weekly on BBC1 from Tuesday at 8pm.

ADOPT A DOG

PAUL STEWART



Annette Crosbie with greyhounds at an NCDL centre

ONCE greyhounds' racing lives are over — often after only four years — many are abandoned. There are even stories of owners cutting off a dog's ear to remove the identification tattoo before they dump them. The National Canine Defence League rescues more than 2,000 greyhounds a year, and although many believe the breed are difficult pets, Nick Southall of the NCDL says they are easy to keep and are intelligent, gentle and sociable.

Annette Crosbie — who plays the long-suffering wife of Victor Meldrew in *One Foot in the Grave* — can confirm that: she owns three that were rescued. If you are interested in adopting a greyhound or would like a fact sheet, ring the NCDL head office (0171-837 0006).

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Spending yet another noisy, sticky summer in London is more than I can bear — but chivalry survives amid the chaos and saves the day

Of knights and summertime blues

On the narrow, stone-flagged path between the Royal Naval College at Greenwich and the river, a yelling midge is gesticulating with her rolled-up umbrella at a company of plump, frustrated American tourists. Hot and unhappy, they form an impenetrable wall of flesh across the thoroughfare. Beyond them is another group, and another and another. The entire waterfront is clogged with sweaty humanity, wondering what the hell it is doing there. All over London, the pavements have acquired a sticky, glistening patina. On the filthy kerbs crouch fretful families, browsing on poison burgers and fizzy drinks. Late summer in the city — and I wish I were anywhere but here.

Every time I go away for a couple of weeks it is the same. Other people go to museums and art galleries on their holidays. I go to estate agents, brooding over other possible lives — in a tiny, smelly loft overlooking a harbour, or a creeper-hung, red-brick, dower house. Then I get back home to Greenwich, and the *Gloire de Dijon* is in bloom around the door, and I think, oh, actually, it is quite nice after all. But out in the garden, in the lurid, purple-bronze London dusk,

the air is filled with the thud of music from the local nightclub. In the small hours, I shall wake to the sound of the departing chubbers — the finkle of broken glass, the crunch of fist on nose, the shrill cries of "Ow, leave it, Dean, he's not worth it..." On Sundays, the nightclub gives way to an eerie ululation, expressive, it seemed to me when I first heard it, of infinite agitation and distress. It is the sound of a nearby congregation speaking in tongues, and it goes on for hours.

"Ooh, I simply can't stand another minute of this," I moaned to Alexander's godmother. "I want a quiet life. I want to watch the heat haze drifting over fields of stubble. I want to keep Khakhi Campbells and Indian Runners. I never want to have to fish another Kentucky Fried Chicken carton out of the front hedge as long as I live."

Above all, I want more space. Snug as a ship's cabin in winter, in summer my house feels merely hot and cramped. My friend Charles put it to me straight

recently: "No one will ever fall in love with you," he said, writhing restlessly on one of the spindly chairs with which my dolls-house rooms are furnished, "because your furniture is so uncomfortable."

This brutal *opercu* sends me straight off to check out my file of estate agents' details. Brooding about cavernous salons filled with immense sofas, I wonder if there is anything about London that I might miss.

Apart from the London Library, I think the only thing is the weird chivalry of London drivers. It was first pointed out to me by an Austrian friend. Having just been pursued down Trafalgar Road by a

LIFE AND SOUL



JANE SHILLING

wild-eyed chap in a white van, making eloquent gestures of reproach with both hands off the steering wheel. I was not much inclined to agree. "But look," he said, "at these charming people, letting me in with a gracious little wave, just like your Queen Mother. In Vienna this kind of politeness does not happen."

And in Hertford, Hereford and Hampshire, it also rarely happens. Because I am vague, and preoccupied, I quite often drive into the kerb at speeds sufficient to burst my tyres. The first time I did it, I was halfway up a perpendicular provincial road. I had not changed a tyre before, and the undertaking struck me as

rather like those questions in the Civil Service exams, where you have to explain how you might get five soldiers across a river with the aid of a length of string and a stick of sealing wax. I dithered about, trying not to cry, while the local farmers thundered past in their Volvos and Range Rovers.

Eventually, having worked out that it was advisable to loosen the wheel nuts before jacking the car up, I effected the change. We drove away. To my astonishment, the wheel did not fall off.

These days I can perform the whole operation in five minutes flat, so when I felt that familiar pop-and-grind on the approach to the Blackwall Tunnel one evening last week, I hopped out of the car and was just getting started when two nice Italian boys came over. They were waiting for a bus, they said, but in the meantime they would do this nasty, dirty job for me.

Now, the thing about bringing up a

child on one's own is that one has constantly to deal, single-handed, with the most appalling crises. It breeds a habit of incorrigible competence, so that one doesn't quite know what to do with help and kindness when it is offered. So — no, no, said I, no help was necessary. Yes, yes, they insisted, and fiddled busily with the wheel until their bus arrived — much to my relief, since I could see they'd got the jack upside down.

At this point, St Christopher appeared, lightly disguised as a young postman. Good heavens, I thought. This sort of helpful queue never forms when I break down in Stelling Minnis or Woolfardisworthy. "Er, you've got the jack upside down," he said. "Fancy that," said I. "And you want to loosen the wheel nuts, before you jack the car up." "Oh, really?" said I. "Let me do it," insisted St Christopher. "Oh, go on then," I said.

So he did. And then, handing back the wheel brace with a courtly gesture, he remarked, "I really admire a woman who knows how to change her own wheel," and sent me on my way with a smile of such dazzling sweetness as almost to reconcile me to life in London — filth, noise, sweating tourists and all.

Spiritual Messenger of our times

There's more to Melinda Messenger than meets the eye, says Ruth Gledhill



Lisa Potts and Clare Short also find comfort in their faith



I ask a male colleague who sits opposite me what is the first word that comes to mind when he hears the name "Melinda Messenger". His response is "Cher". What about the silicone? "That's just for the devotees," he says, "for people who know about such things. It's the large breasts. Everyone's heard of her."

But there is more to Melinda than meets the eye. In between touring Britain's coastal spots on a topless double-decker bus, presenting a Sky TV show and preparing to play Diana Dors in an ITV drama, she features in a new TV series called *Headliners*, in which she talks about morality and religion, of all things, and her inclination towards Buddhism.

Not that Melinda, 26, has a religious belief as such. It is the fact that she appears not to need one that is faintly unnerving. But in that comfortable lack of belief, she bears little difference to so many of her contemporaries, the generation largely lost to the churches.

These are the offspring of the Sixties generation, who seem cheerful and comfortable to be so lost. In vain do the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, and other church leaders condemn repeatedly the "pick 'n' mix" spirituality of the New Age. Unless burdened with a distaste for girls who are photographed taking their clothes off, and sadly Melinda's mother is one who seems to harbour such a dislike, there seems little to condemn in Melinda. "A bit of a girl for our times," says producer Doug Carnegie.

She has a carefully worked out morality which centres on not hurting people or animals, even bugs. She is intelligent, level-headed, beautiful and faithful to her boyfriend Wayne, whom she has been seeing for two years. She does not seem the type to go down the well-travelled road to ruin that begins with the catwalk, the road that leads to drugs, alcoholism, promiscuity.

Yet she picks and mixes her spirituality with the best of them, without remorse. If the church leaders are right, shouldn't she be miserable, suffering from her lack of belief? No such suffering seems apparent. Indeed, she appears more contented, more at ease with herself, than many of her peers who do find their way back to church. Of course, there is the possibility

that it is all some fabulous act of make-believe. But even if that is so, she must then have a great future in Hollywood.

Melinda has no religion, but she has faith in life, she tells presenter Anne Diamond. She also believes in life after death. "I do believe that we go on," she says. "I am not sure where we go on to, whether it is Heaven or whether it is somewhere that is still within this Earth or another dimension. But I do believe people have a spirit, and the spirit will go on and there is something there."

She does not have faith in God, but confesses: "There is some sort of entity, some sort of power."

She is confused by the profusion of religious choice in today's society. "There are so many religions. If I had to pick one, then it would be Buddhism. That is the one I feel most comfortable with." For example, she says, she believes even the smallest creature should be allowed to live. "I

don't kill a bug just because I don't like it," she says. "I allow it to live. Everything has got its place. Just because I have the power to speak doesn't make me better than any other living creature."

These days Melinda is making a great deal more than the £23,000 she earned as an office manager when a double-glazing firm featured her in posters on a bus shelter. The posters kept disappearing, sales shot up and the company took on more staff, while Melinda shot to stardom on Page Three.

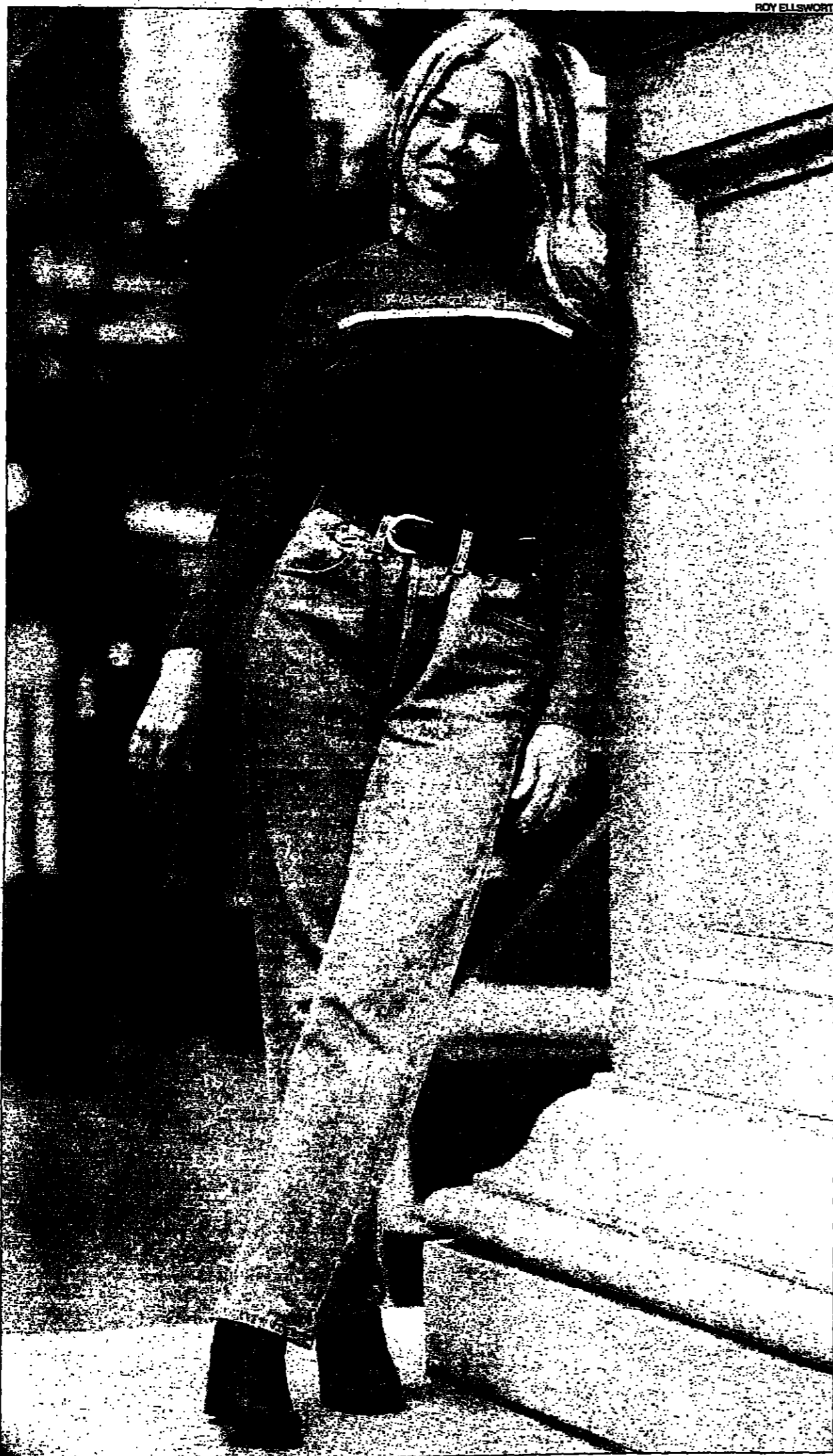
Many of the pitfalls she considered her options carefully, she says. But she thought about what was being offered, and decided to go for it. It was not a decision made cynically. "It is not for the money. It is for having a different life," she says. "If I had turned it down, then what regrets would I

have? I would still be going to work every day, nine-to-five, Monday to Friday. I would not have gone to the places I have gone to. I also know if I don't like it, I can go back to normal life."

Beneath the breasts, the blonde hair, the bravado, is a young woman living her life by definite spiritual and moral principles. "I was quite astonished when I met her," says Doug Carnegie. "Her character comes across as classic West Country Quaker. She knows right from wrong. She clearly is not stupid. There is something quite *candide* about her."

On Monday, Melinda sets off on another roadshow for *The Sun*, which dubbed her the "Girl for the Thrillium". She begins in Weymouth, finishing on Friday in Blackpool. Melinda Messenger might not be as famous as Madonna or as rich as the Spice Girls. But the exceptional quality of her unexceptional life makes her truly an icon of the New Age.

In addition to Melinda, Lisa Potts, the Wolverhampton nursery nurse who protected children by taking the brunt of a frenzied machete attack, and Clare Short, the Overseas Development Secretary, appear in the series *Headliners*, which starts tomorrow in Central Region. Ms Potts describes how her faith has helped her to recover. Although no longer a nursery nurse, she believes it was God's wish that she was there on that day to protect the youngsters. And Ms Short describes how Catholicism has helped her in her multicultural Birmingham constituency.



"Just because I have the power to speak doesn't make me better than any other living creature," says Melinda Messenger

Message from a Congo missionary

An African supply priest is bringing a multicultural message to Sheerness



A COUPLE of overweight, drunk, mid-aged men glared at me as I walked to Mass in the Roman Catholic parish church in Sheerness, a seaside resort in Kent. The beach was almost empty, apart from the occasional mother or grandmother shepherding small children to and from the brown, seaweedy water. Unpromising flats and houses in the local estate agents' windows were unbelievably cheap. Business at the local pawnbrokers appeared brisk. Father Felicien M'bala, from the Congo, is filling in as a "supply" priest at Sheerness, where the parish is about to go into interregnum as the priest departs for pastures new. Fluent in French and his native African tongue, his plan was to brush up on his English to help him with his studies at the prestigious Louvain University in Belgium. But his days so far in this "land of hope and glory" seem to have



Father M'bala celebrating Mass

left him faintly bemused. He regards himself as a product of European missionary activity in deepest Africa, and has clearly decided to view his stay in Britain as a chance to give back some of what he was given. Sheerness seems oblivious to this

AT YOUR SERVICE

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PARISH PRIEST: Rev David Standley
ARCHITECTURE: Cream, pink and gold interior. ★★
HOMILY: "There is no love of God without loving of brothers and sisters." ★★
MUSIC AND LITURGY: Nun sang the gospel acclamation. ★★
SPIRITUAL HIGH: Calm and cool. ★★

exotic talent. But inside the church, the bleakness of the town is relieved by hope. The statue of the Virgin Mary is decked with flowers and the stations of the cross are painted in ice-cream colours. The pews shine with polish. The congregation is friendly.

Father M'bala apologises before we begin. "My English is not perfect. I do my best to speak," he says, but he is easily understood.

For a Monday midday service, the church is surprisingly full, with a congregation chiefly of young and older women. "Welcome, brothers and sisters to this Mass," says Father M'bala, 39, who preaches on the mandate: "Follow me". Afterwards, parishioners described the value they placed on the work of priests from abroad. "It is nice to have experience of different cultures," said Annie Pond, 87, who was married in the church in 1936 and has served as a housekeeper for a number of its priests. Jenny Walls, a mother of five, said: "The foreign priests bring something to us. It is strange. We went out as missionaries to them, and now they are reminding us of what we have forgotten."

R.G.

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'Soil has none of the romance of the badger, butterfly, red squirrel or bat; no one sells flags to support it, but it is fundamental to life'

Back to basics. Will everyone, please, at some stage during the next few days, take hold of a handful of soil and show it some respect? Grab some, take a long, hard look at it, marvel at its workings, sing in praise of its chemistry, bless its bugs for being, and before placing it back on the ground, say thank you.

If ever the environment had a poor relation, it is the soil. It has none of the romance of the badger, butterfly, red squirrel or bat; no one sells flags to support it, its conservation attracts no glitzy corporate money. Only one charity, the Soil Association, takes it seriously; yet even in enlightened times the association has to struggle to campaign for its maintenance by organic methods.

But soil is as fundamental to the maintenance of life on earth as more modish concerns, such as the disposition of the ozone layer, or the carbon monoxide levels in our summer air. You'd think there was something filthy about soil, the way we turn up our noses at it.

Nowhere has the point been better made than by the actions of a supermarket attempting to expand its car park

near Stockport, Cheshire, and of councillors in Warwickshire who refuse to remember the earthy foundations of their new housing estate. Let us take the supermarket first.

In a plan to expand a car park, it became clear that an adjoining set of allotments would have to be sacrificed. The gardeners disagreed. Not because they objected to the inconvenience of their plots being moved down the road to another site at the supermarket's expense, nor because the £1,000 they were each offered was considered patronising. They objected because they did not want to leave behind some of the finest growing soil to be found for miles around.

They had created it over years by their own efforts and watered it with the sweat from their own brows. They manured it, weeded it, forked it over, and were careful not to overwork it when wet. They treated it as precious, and in their hands it has become so, as valuable as gold dust

and an investment with a guaranteed return over successive harvests. Such a loss could not be compensated with petty cash.

Now, had it been a public park, water meadow or owl sanctuary which the supermarket people were planning to flatten, there would have been an outcry and another march to Hyde Park. But it was only soil, in which allotment holders grew vegetables, so nobody rushed to their support. They are dismissed as eccentrics. But imagine if you were one of those growers a couple of years hence, knowing that what was once your precious soil was now buried deep

DOWN TO EARTH



PAUL HEINEY

beneath the over-lit, air-conditioned vegetable department. Would it not make you weep, to reach for a shrink-wrapped cabbage which had travelled halfway around the world and know that beneath your feet once grew greens, greener in every sense than anything bought in a supermarket? I hope those lads stick to their

guns. On the same theme, it is time to pour shame on the town councillors of Whitnash, Warwickshire, where a housing estate is being built on the former site of the South Leamington allotments. Bad enough that it went ahead in the first place, but at least the builders had the

sensitivity to understand that one person's housing gain was another's environmental loss. By way of memorial, the developers suggested that the street names on the new estate should reflect the honourable history of the patch of land. This gave rise to suggestions of Turnip Drive and Parsnip Road. It showed their heart was in the right place, even if imaginations were on holiday.

The local council was quick to respond with a raspberry, sniggering. "Who wants to live in Artichoke Avenue?" Councillor Bernard Kirton went even further by saying: "We reckon this is taking the green philosophy a bit too far. I've dubbed the idea Spud Alley." There is no record as to what he has been dubbed in return. Mr Rhuabarb?

It is all so depressing, because it shows that, despite all the advances we think we have made in bringing ecological issues

before a wider public, despite all the boxes that have been rattled to fund the whale, the rainforest, the dolphin and the owl, we are no closer to an appreciation of, or respect for, the basic commodity on which life depends. No soil, no food, no life.

Intensive farming doesn't give a damn about soil. Short-term profit-seeking forces it into submission chemically and mechanically. If, one day, it should scream "enough, enough!" (as, arguably, the cows did when unnaturally fed the animal by-products), where do we go to plant the crops? Dig up the supermarket? Or perhaps remember the words of Lady Eve Balfour, the author of *The Living Soil* and founder of the organic movement more than 60 years ago:

When a new generation has arisen... to value and conserve its soil taught... then not only will our land have citizens worthy of it, but it will also be a land of happy and contented people, for it is important to remember that happiness is a by-product. It is, moreover, a by-product of activity and not of ease. It cannot be found ready made. So dig the dirt: revere it.

Readers' letters are welcome on countryside matters of all kinds. Address them to: Paul Heiney, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. They are published on the first Saturday of the month.

Wye river hits rock bottom

Despite a 37lb catch in June, salmon stocks are low, Alan Road reports

When Chris Hordern pulled a 37lb salmon from the Wye near Bulth Wells in the last week of June, word spread along the river bank like a hungry commensal.

Philip Parkinson was telephoned within 20 minutes of the fish's demise. As vice-chairman of the Wye Foundation, he hoped that the wettest June in 50 years was reviving the river's fortunes.

The 130-mile-long Wye has long been regarded as the most famous salmon river in England and Wales. Its merits were chronicled in the 12th century by Giraldus Cambrensis, a Welsh cleric, and 500 years later by Isaac Walton in *The Compleat Angler*.

Even 20 years ago, annual rod catches of salmon still totalled 7,000 and average size was 12lb. Today catches have fallen to 2,000 and average size is down to 8lb. A 4ft-long, nine-stained cast of the last 37lb salmon caught hereabouts — in 1986 — glowers from the wall in the bar of the Griffin Inn at Llyswen, Powys.

When Joseph Sincclair followed up the Bulth catch with a 28lb salmon landed further downstream, hopes were again raised, but it takes more than one decent-sized fish to make a summer for anglers. Joseph's father, Hubie, is an optimist: "I walk the river with my dog and until a week ago I saw a salmon leaping every



Richard Stockton casts his line: private estates meant a landowner and his guest could fish alone; now syndicates can mean three or four rods on the same stretch a day

day. Hubie believes that, like the economy, the river's problems are cyclical and have "bottomed out". Fishermen who congregate at the Griffin are less certain. Gillie Bryn Davies does not

think the river will recover in his lifetime. He is 70 and could usually guarantee to catch a fish for his birthday on April 17. But not this year. "The rains are not coming like they used to," he says. "And the

salmon need the water to come through." The odyssey that takes the two-year-old parr down the Wye and out into the Atlantic, where it gorges in the feeding grounds off Greenland for up to three years before returning to fight its way up-river to the very pool where it was born to thrash a hole in the shale with its powerful tail and bury eggs, fills Bryn with admiration.

The Wye and the wherefore of the decline that has brought Bryn two blank years puzzles others in the bar of the Griffin. Landlord Richard Stockton blames the proliferation of fishermen like himself. Once, when the surrounding estates were all privately owned, a landowner might spend the old weekend fishing with his gillie and a guest.

"Now, thanks to death duties and the splitting up of estates, the old money has had to syndicate the water," he says. Three or four rods could be fishing the same stretch every day of the season. "If you compound that all the way down the river, you can see the extent of the problem."

For Philip Parkinson the problem is that every angler believes he has an unique insight into the causes and solution of the problems. As he is a graduate in fisheries



One that didn't get away in 1986 in the bar of the Griffin

management with wide experience in the water industry, he is well qualified to provide a more dispassionate perspective. Little can be done locally about global warming that may be raising temperatures on the fishing grounds, or about the Greenlanders and the Irish and Welsh gill-net fishermen who intercept the salmon on their journeys. So the foundation concentrates on its own 130-mile beat.

A survey of the mass of tributaries in Plympton found many choked by fallen trees and branches. More than 200 of these blockages have been

removed in the past year. A more intractable problem is the poisoning of catchment areas by acid rain and the planting of conifers. Farmers are to be encouraged — and financially assisted — to fence off streams and prevent stock eating vegetables that provides shade and cover for young fish. When more people were employed in farming, there was manpower to coppice the alders that ribbon the river and occlude sunlight. Losses to poachers, cormorants and the goosander — "an extremely efficient fish-eating machine with wings" — must

be limited. All these pieces of the ecological jigsaw are both labour-intensive and expensive, Mr Parkinson admits. Which is why the foundation is busy raising money from anglers and fishery owners.

"We are fortunate that, despite the current lack of salmon, fishing rights on the Wye are very expensive," he says. The river accommodates 120 significant owners, whose fisheries change hands for up to £500,000. When the foundation recently issued them with voluntary assessments, based on the old local authority rating system, it met with a 90 per cent compliance. "It was quite amazing."

One prescription for arresting the decline might be a catch-and-release policy. "If you bought in an outside consultant, not involved in the passion of angling, he would ask why fishermen worried about stocks of salmon kill the fish they catch."

Sadly, anglers often want to take their fish home to eat it or to show friends how clever they are. "It's in the blood," says Mr Parkinson, who releases everything he catches and believes the policy will eventually catch on.

He warns: "Either we tackle these problems or strug our shoulders to the fact that there won't be any more salmon and take up golf."

A time of much hooting

FEATHER REPORT

THE other night I heard a tawny owl hooting outside my house in Regent's Park in the middle of London. It was the usual haunting sound — a clear hoot, followed by a strange, throat-clearing noise, and then the long, tremulous hoot fading away. This was the first time for three years that I had heard one from my bedroom and I hope it is taking up a territory in the surrounding gardens, where there always was one.

In fact, this is the time of year when much hooting begins among tawny owls. The fledglings stay with their parents, for several months, but now the young males are looking for territories and competing with older males for them. The owls hoot to announce their ownership of their realm, and in August and September can even engage in quite fierce nocturnal fights for land. In most years there is not much new space available with a sufficiency of birds and rodents to feed on and many young owls die of starvation in the autumn.

Occasionally they hoot or even forage in the daytime, but they are generally birds of the night, and one only sees



Tawny owls are territorial

them flitting past on dark, moth-like wings. One is most likely to get a view of them when they are caught in the headlights of a car. I remember coming up the drive of a house in the Lake District and suddenly seeing one on the ground in front of the house, brilliantly illuminated in the headlights. It stared at us, motionless, as we slowly drove nearer and we could see its large, dark eyes and what even such a learned work as *The Birds of the Western Palearctic* calls its "kind face". Finally it rose and slipped into the darkness.

IN THE COUNTRY, tawny owls feed mostly on mice and shrews, while in towns they prey on roosting sparrows and tits, and take rats whenever they see one. They have been known to agitate bushes with their wings to disturb the birds sleeping in them. They also eat earthworms on lawns. Wet and windy nights are difficult for them, because the slight sounds of the darkness on which they depend are harder to make out. They disappear in the day into ivy and thick foliage — but they leave behind evidence that they are there, in the form of regurgitated pellets made of feather, fur and bone.

DERWENT MAY

• Whereabouts: Birders — listen for their autumn song. • Trichuris — a western sandpiper at Minsmere, East Devon; a solitary sandpiper on Cumnor, a spotted crane at Sandwell Valley, West Midlands. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 30p a minute.

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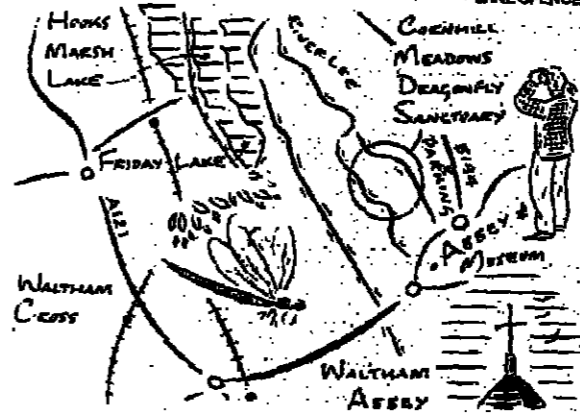
ON THE SPOT: WALTHAM ABBEY

The place: The Dragonfly Sanctuary, Waltham Abbey, Essex. The view: Dragonflies hover and skim the gently flowing River Lee and ahead lies verdant meadowland leading to a row of tall conifers lining the horizon. The tower of Waltham Abbey pierces the skyline in the south-west.

The appeal: Although close to the town, the sanctuary attracts half of Britain's native species of dragonfly. Aficionados: Locals taking a stroll and nature lovers, some with picnic chairs, looking for a suitable spot.

Historical interest: The Norman town of Waltham Abbey lies on the Greenwich Meridian 11 degrees longitude and you can cross the line in Sun Street. The Abbey stands on the site of several churches, the last of which was built by King Harold and a stone denotes his reputed burial place. The oldest surviving house dates from 1400. Gunpowder was manufactured here and the gunpowder mills, built in 1663, provided additional work during the Napoleonic wars between 1793 and 1815.

How to get there: Take B194 and turn left into Cumnill Meadows car park. Cross the weir bridge, turn left and walk 50 yards.



Time to visit: On sunny days to see the dragonflies. OS reference: 379/019 Landranger 166. Also nearby: Waltham Abbey Museum, nature trails and bird hides and a timbered 15th-century building, now a quaint tea room overlooking the Abbey gardens.

DEBORAH KING



Where
Adam
fell
in love
Crete · 18

THE TIMES

travel

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now in
the city
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Packaged tales of the Dark Continent

STEVE J. BENBOW

The Gambia is
not just beach
heaven; real
Africa is here
too — if you
look for it, says
Stephen
McClarence

Blaine Alex Haley. Without his novel, *Roots*, Juffureh would be just another West African village up-river in The Gambia. As it is, a procession of 200 lobster-pink tourists is making its slow, shoulder-bagged way along the jetty in the midday heat.

Their boat set off three hours ago from Banjul, the tiny capital of Africa's smallest country — a long, thin finger poking 300 miles into the side of Senegal. Up on deck, the first bottle of beer is rolling round at 9.30am. By 11am, the suntan lotion is glistening in the glare. The tourists — mostly on cheap packages — are roasting gently and at noon, with Richard Clayderman smooching over the PA, they peel themselves off their plastic chairs and step out on to the Juffureh jetty.

"Hey, boss man, you come to see craft market?" No, they come to see Binta Kinte, an icon of Gambian tourism. Haley traced his great-great-grandfather, a deported slave, to this village and Madame Kinte, a woman of wizened antiquity, claims to be a direct descendant. The tourists trudge sweetly past corrugated iron huts and bleating goats and children playing under baobab trees ("How do you like our small country? Any pens?").

A self-appointed guide leads them to a thatched shelter where a young woman sits herself languidly from sleep. The tourists sit and wait for the Gambian equivalent of an audience with the Pope.

Slowly a door opens and Madame Kinte emerges from the darkness, carrying a crudely framed photograph of herself and Haley. It has been cut out of an in-flight magazine. She passes it round, the tourists photograph each other with her and drop money in a wicker basket.

A hundred yards away, the Roots Slave Trade Museum documents the appalling conditions endured by the slaves shipped to America. The facts — there were at least 20 million of them, one in three died on the ships — speak for themselves, but the museum plans to extend its displays of neck shackles and leg irons.

"We want to recreate the interior of a slave ship," says Sam Samuel, a development worker at the museum. "The sights, the sounds, the — er — smells. And it will be interactive." So tourists can pretend to be slaves and slip on the manacles. "Oh yes," he nods solemnly.

Tourism is crucial to The Gambia, but the country has boxed itself into a corner. For 30 years it has been the Costa del West Africa — a mass market for cheap holidays with no greater exertion than slapping on the sunblock, ring-pulling the lager can and turning the pages of a Danielle Steel bestseller.

Now there are dissenting voices. Some worry that most of the profits go straight to British tour companies without reaching the local economy. The companies dictate terms and when they pull out — as they did after a coup in 1994 — The Gambia suffers.

Some tourists never stir from the cosy cocoon of their hotel compound (topless sunbathing and bingo in five languages) to glimpse the realities of Gambian life. Africa's third poorest country may only flash past the coach on the dispiriting half-hour drive from the airport.

"They do what they want, eat what they want, drink



Children mingle with tourists in Juffureh, the Gambian village to which Alex Haley, the author of *Roots*, traced his great-great-grandfather. The village is now home to the Roots Slave Trade Museum

what they want, without any reference to the local culture," says Louise Kempton, an Irish development worker who co-ordinates Gambia Tourism Concern, a campaigning group. "It's like the old colonialism."

She is worried about the social and environmental impact of mass tourism. Coastal erosion, perhaps caused by over-development, is sweeping away some of the beaches. One hotel has imported 40,000 sandbags from Germany to protect its beach.

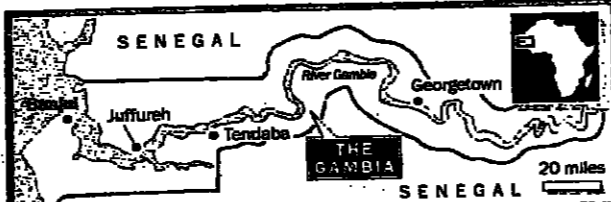
The Gambian Government is full of good intentions. It talks of diversifying into eco-tourism, to encourage more upmarket, higher-spending tourists. But it is still proud to announce four new beach hotels on its Atlantic coast.

There are many anomalies. The country's director of tourism, Mbo Cham, says the country is "safer than Kensington High Street", but acknowledges that beach "bumsters" plague tourists, "bustlers" for shops and tours.

A hotel owner laments the spread of "Coca-Cola culture", then settles back for his evening tourist show. It features Gambians doing Elvis Presley impersonations. European tourists apparently complain about too much African culture in the shows.

But there is another Gambia. More adventurous tourists buy packages and branch off independently — maybe to the Kemoto Hotel, a garden village of African-style huts (en-suite, naturally) 70 miles up-river from the resorts.

At midnight in the hotel, beyond the whirring fans and the chirping cicadas, there is a gentle lapping of water. A jetty teeters out into the River Gambia, here four miles wide. A tissue-paper moon glints on the water, the mangrove creeks stretch blackly out and distant drums thud in a stillness that is deep and vast. Suddenly this is the mystery of



THE GAMBIA FACT FILE

■ The author travelled with the Gambia Hotel Association and First Choice Holidays (0161-742 2228), which offers a winter sun programme in The Gambia from November to April. One week's B&B at the Kombo Beach Novotel, flying from Gatwick or Manchester on November 1, costs £379 per person, based on two sharing a room. Holidays throughout the season cost between £355 and £525.

■ The Gambia Experience (01703 730888) has year-round charter flights from Gatwick from £249 and from Manchester from £264 and sells package holidays. Thomson, Air Tours, Cosmos and Sunworld also operate to The Gambia.

■ Accommodation: The Kombo Beach Novotel Hotel at Kombo Beach (00 220 465466) has double rooms from £39 a night excluding meals. The Kemoto Hotel (220 460606) charges £41 a night for a double, full board. Tendaba Camp (fax 220 466180) charges £10 per person per night, excluding meals.

■ Further information: Gambia National Tourist Office, 57 Kensington Court, London W8 5DG (0171-376 0093).

■ Reading: *The Travel Bookshop* (0171-229 5260) recommends *Chaff in the Wind*, by Ebon Diba (Macmillan, £4.25); *Birdwatcher's Guide to the Gambia*, by Rod Ward (Pica, Huntingdon, £9.75); *Insight Guide, Gambia and Senegal* (£13.99).



Gambian-peanut-seller

calls out from the front seat of a Land Rover bumping along the dusty roads. "Spotted eagle owl! Grasshopper buzzard! Usher's spine-tailed swift! On the must-see list."

It is dusk and families are sitting around fires outside their huts. A bush baby scrambles up a tree next to a termite's nest. Birds flash across the headlights like flying rainbows. Barlow stops the Land Rover and trains his searchlight on a long-tailed nightjar squatting unconcernedly on the road. And that animal over there, Clive? "A goat... a very small goat."

At Tendaba he hires a boat to chug quietly up the mangrove creeks. The mangroves stretch 15 miles back from the mudflats. Much of the area is uncharted.

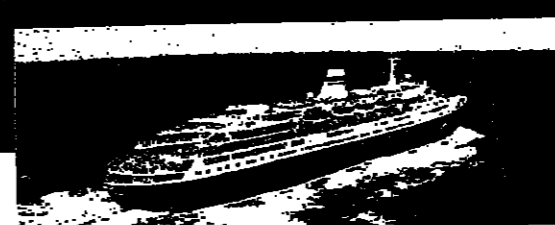
Birds swoop and shriek, others scuttle and Barlow leans back in the boat, hands behind his head like the Lord of the Mangroves. Suddenly: "Wow wow wow wow wow!" It is the call of the Greater British Ornithologist spotting a blue fairy flycatcher. "And that's a vinaceous collared dove. The colonials used to call it the 'time-to-go-home bird'. When its call finally drove you nuts, it was time to go home."

The British colonials finally went home in 1965 after granting independence to The Gambia. Their capital, Bathurst, was renamed Banjul but little else seems to have changed. A dusty Union Jack is propped up in a dark corner of a museum mostly dedicated to fertility beads, circumcision sticks and antelope masks. A cluster of photographs shows the British commissioners and governors in all their braid and epaulettes. These were the days of diplomatic scholarship. Sir Herbert Richmond Palmer, governor from 1930 to 1933, found time to publish *Carthaginian Voyages to West Africa in 500 BC*. One to read when you've finished the Danielle Steel.

Africa, a hint of Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*. Kemoto and the similar Tendaba Camp nearby are among the best places to sample the 560 species of birds that make The Gambia one of Africa's most treasured and accessible bird-watching sites.

Clive Barlow, a Lancashire man over here for 12 years, is an ideal guide. As co-author of *Field Guide to the Birds of The Gambia*, a handbook coming out next month, he leads safaris through the bush in a battered pair of suede boots. "Egyptian vulture!" he

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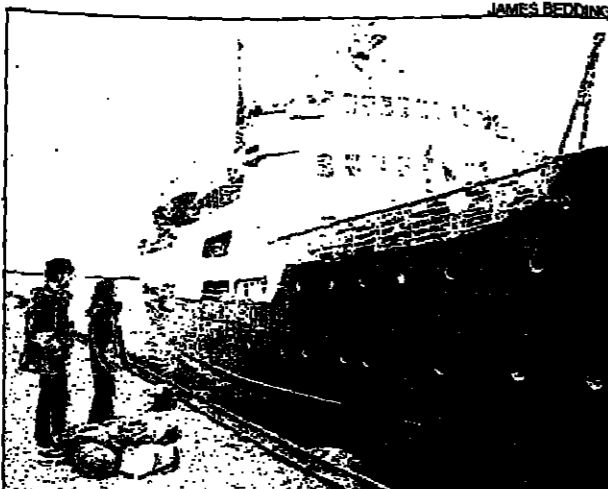
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Norway: John Carter heads for the Arctic Circle, only to find Europe's northernmost point has moved...



The Kong Harald seems too posh to be a working boat

Sailing north to the sun

We left the ship at Honningsvåg where the coaches were waiting to take us the few short miles to our destination. We drove across a stark landscape dotted with grazing reindeer and up to the plateau whose cliffs dropped sheer for more than a thousand feet into the foam-flecked grey waves that surged at their base.

Here was the souvenir shop and the restaurant and the museum, and the post office where cards receive a special cancellation mark. Here was where everyone posed for photographs against the Compass Globe monument standing boldly on the cliff-top.

Here was evidence for friends at home that you had travelled to North Cape — "the northernmost point of Europe". The only fly in the Norwegian ointment is that North Cape is not the northernmost point of Europe. That distinction belongs to Knivskjellodden, a small headland a mile or so to the west. "Why do you pretend that this is the spot instead of taking people to the real northernmost point?" I asked our guide.

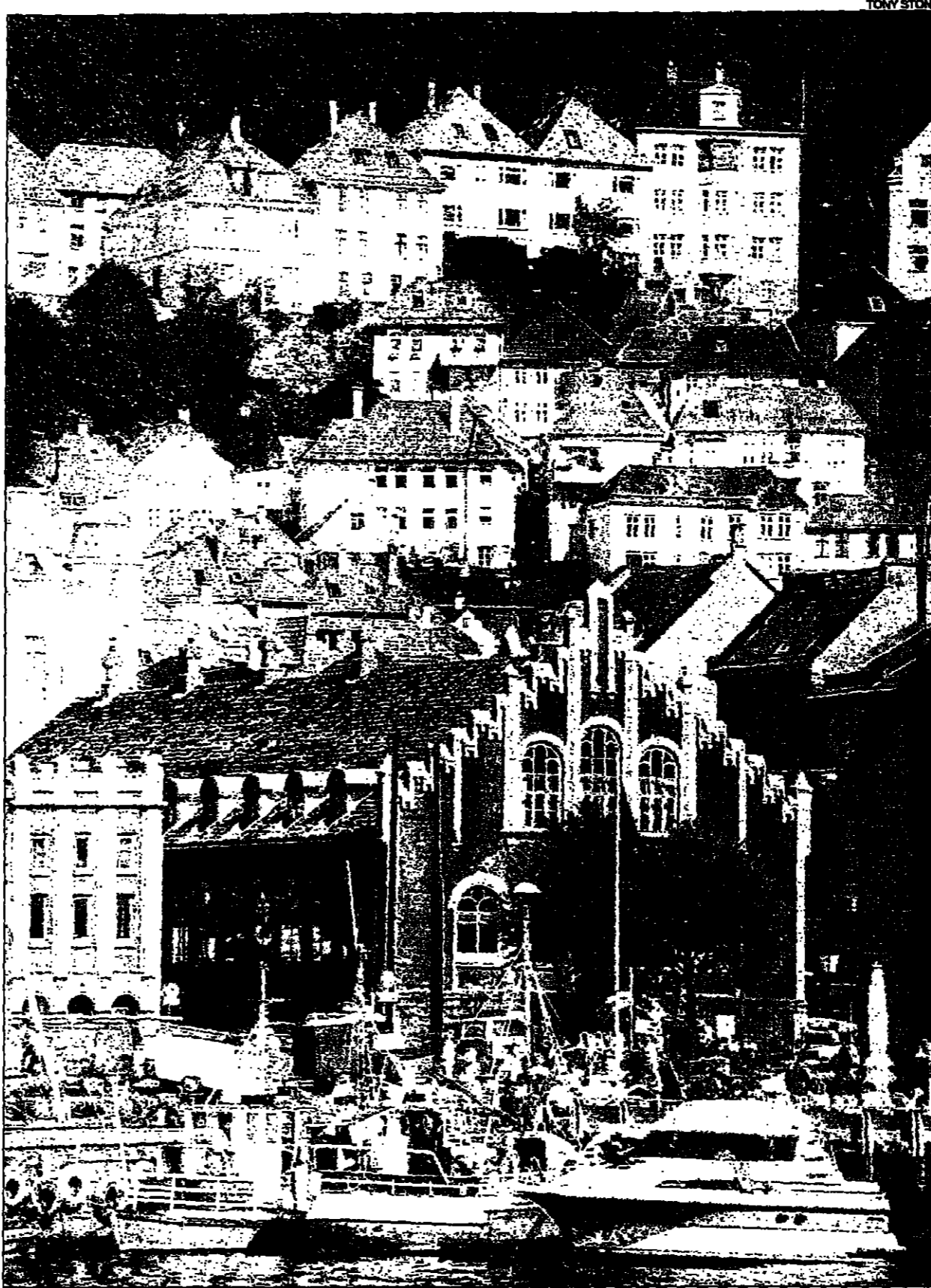
He thought for a moment. "I think maybe because this is where the shops and the restaurant have been built," he replied slowly. "And the toilets — they are very important."

It was one of those bizarre situations you never forget — battling to stay upright against the gale on a spot that has frequently, and correctly, been described as the edge of the world, arguing with a smiling Norwegian that the location of the toilets is not as important as being honest about the geography.

We had taken six days to reach Honningsvåg, travelling on one of the 11 vessels that provide the Coastal Express service, or Hurtigruten, between Bergen and Kirkenes. The brochure claims this is the world's most beautiful sea voyage, and I would not argue, for the landscape is breathtaking.

It is a rugged coastline with deep fiords and cliffs that drop sheer to meet their reflections in mirror-calm waters. Rolling green hills and distant mountains brood darkly as the clouds gather behind them. It is a landscape on which man has made little impact, although now and then you see the brightly painted wooden houses of some coastal outpost that is too tiny to merit a stop by our ship, but which is served by smaller boats.

In summer it is a voyage through constant daylight, for this is the Land of the Midnight Sun. I was making the journey just after midsummer, so I was, strictly speaking,



On the waterfront: Bergen, starting point for one of the world's most beautiful voyages up the coast of Norway

heading towards the land of the quarter-past-11 sun.

I mentioned, didn't I, that I sailed from Bergen? A ship leaves the city every evening at 10.30 with a punctuality you could set your watch by, and

you don't have to be a genius to work out that a fleet of 11 ships can neatly operate an 11-day round-trip service with clockwork efficiency.

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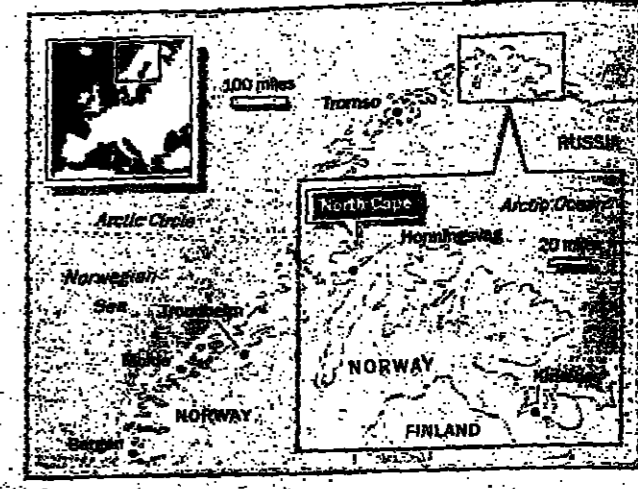
few of our fellow passengers were doing just that. Others were leaving the ship at different ports, planning to continue the journey after as many days as they fancied — which is no problem with a regular daily sailing. We were a mixed bunch but there were only four other passengers from Britain.

"We don't get so many British on board because they associate cruises with sunshine," said one of the crew when I raised the point. "You think you can only enjoy a ship if you are in the Caribbean, or the eastern Mediterranean. You think of Norway as a land of snow and ice. But you are wrong. Look around and see how wrong." We were, at that moment, sailing under a

cloudless sky over a calm sea. To starboard was the mainland, its green hills bathed in sunshine, its formidable rocky cliffs almost glowing as the sun began to drop towards a horizon that it would touch only briefly.

Ahead and to port were some low islands, among which a group of fishing boats were sailing. Breathing in the crisp, clean air and enjoying the warmth of the sun, I agreed with the crewman: "They don't know what they're missing."

This, though, is much more than a cruise. The ships of the Coastal Express fleet are working boats carrying passengers and freight between Bergen and Kirkenes. Some of



FACT FILE

■ John Carter travelled with Norwegian Coastal Voyages (0171-571 4011), which offer the "Voyage to the North" trip for £1,295 on the Kong Harald, or on one of the other ships in the fleet for £995, during September. The package includes return flights to Bergen, the ten-night voyage, internal flights and one night's accommodation before your return.

■ The coastal voyage trip is also available through Scandinavian Travel Service (0171-559 6666).

■ Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends *Scandinavian and Baltic Europe* (Lonely Planet, £11.99).

■ The Norwegian Tourist Board (0171-839 6235) is at Charles House, 51 Lower Regent Street, London SW1Y 4LR, and can send information about the Hurtigruten.

them are getting towards venerable, others are virtually brand new, and they vary in size and style and standard of service. However, you can check them out in the brochure, take advice from a travel agent and arrange your departure date so as to catch whichever of the fleet takes your fancy.

My choice was the Kong Harald (kong is Norwegian for king — which led to all sorts of problems when the film *King Kong* was shown there). Built in 1933, she carries about 300 passengers. Looking new and smart, she seems too posh to be a working boat, yet does not have the full range of facilities you would expect from a fully-fledged cruise ship. The food and service were both first class and she had comfortable bars and public rooms. But there was no organised entertainment and the passengers divided their time between eating and drinking, admiring the scenery and reading.

There is, of course, much more to this voyage than sailing past the scenery, and the trips ashore were generally worthwhile. Representatives from the tourist authorities meet the boat at each stop and offer sightseeing trips while the boat's cargo is loaded or unloaded.

Molder, our first port of call, enjoys a "remarkably good" summer climate, being south-facing and sheltered by mountains, and so earns its nickname, "The Town of Roses". Flowers are everywhere, in baskets hanging from lamp-posts, decorating shop fronts and roundabouts and blooming magnificently in the parks.

At Trondheim we visited the medieval cathedral, housing Norway's crown jewels, and the museum of music history at nearby Ringve.

Trondheim, the capital of Arctic Norway, is known for obscure reasons as The Paris of the North — and no one could tell me why, for it looks less like Paris than anywhere, with the possible exception of Kathmandu. Nevertheless, there is plenty to interest the cruise passengers who have four or five hours to spare, such as the Trondheim church, consecrated in 1965, a stark white building with modern stained glass.

On board, the vaguely touristic event happened when we crossed the Arctic Circle on the fourth day from Bergen. The captain and the purser had told me and my friends that an Arctic baptism ceremony took place for those who had never crossed the circle. As described, it seemed a pretty harmless jape, with lots of water and ice cubes poured down the necks of the unsuspecting victims.

"King Neptune does this," explained the captain gravely. "He comes on board especially." He paused, then said conspiratorially: "I let you into a secret. It is not King Neptune. We get somebody to dress up and do this."

My friends looked at each other. Then they all looked at me. Which is why, next day, I tramped into the main lounge wearing a false beard and tin crown, "swathed" in "oilskins" and carrying a trident in order to pour very cold water down the necks of assorted passengers.

The Italians squealed a lot, the elderly Americans endured it in silence, and the French were not good sports at all. They only laughed when the purser poured a whole bucket of water over me.

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Kenya tourists upbeat

SCORES of travellers worried about the outbreak of violence in Mombasa have either been refunded or switched to other destinations. But for every holidaymaker is willing to take a chance and travel, say operators to East Africa.

Hayes & Jarvis has reported 11 cancellations for its charter flight departing tomorrow from Manchester and Gatwick. But the company's product manager, Declan Morton, said spare seats on the 358-seater A300 had since been resold at a nominal discount.

"We are in the middle of peak season and have easily resold the seats," Thomson had 14 cancellations on its flight last Tuesday, while Kuoni has reported two cancellations and others switching to Tanzania or Zanzibar. But Kenya is experiencing a surge in popularity from the UK, with the country's tourist office predicting 10 per cent growth from the UK to 110,000 visitors this year.

And tour operators say that while they are monitoring the situation in Kenya and following Foreign Office advice, demand is filling space left by those who cancel.

Jane Thornton, Kuoni's senior product manager said: "We are full until early September and still have bookings coming in for then. There have been occasions when we have even managed to pick up extra capacity because the Italian market has dropped off. The Italians seem to have been quicker to respond to the situation."

STEVE KEENAN

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Defeating the Tories spoilt a lot of travel plans, says Martha Linden, and late bookings are a headache



For the Prime Minister, planning a family summer holiday in Tuscany and France, above, presented no problems — he could rely on Sedgefield returning him on May 2

Being elected is no holiday



It's France for Nigel Griffiths, home for Nick Brown

Forget the divisions between Old Labour and New Government and Opposition. This summer, the real parliamentary divide is between MPs who have hit the beach running and those still scrambling to book their holidays.

The parliamentary recess, from July 31 to October 27, might be the longest in recent memory, but a marathon election campaign and the breakneck pace of the Government's legislative programme have left many MPs too busy to book a holiday. The new intake are at a particular



disadvantage, as they are also preoccupied with finding accommodation near Westminster and settling into their jobs.

Nick Brown, the Government Chief Whip, has got to know the new Labour intake intimately. "I have not arranged anything yet — except for a week's paperwork in Westminster and a week dealing with constituency business," he said. "A lot of the new MPs are in the same boat. I would guess that at least half have not made any travel arrangements."

For many, a further problem is that they simply did not

expect to be elected. Some had booked holidays before the election on the assumption they would still be in their old jobs. In many cases, they have had to cancel these breaks and are finding it hard to book anything else.

Oona King, 29-year-old Labour MP for Bethnal Green, lost £800 when she had to cancel two package holidays. She and her husband, Italian film producer Tiberio Santomaro, had intended to head to India until they found the departure date coincided with her parliamentary selection meeting, five weeks before the

general election. They then booked a holiday in Eilat, Israel, still not expecting her to be selected. When she was, that plan also bit the dust. The couple are now planning a modest fortnight on the Greek island of Patmos next month.

"We chose Patmos because we can get a cheap charter flight to Kos, and it is then just a two-hour ferry crossing to Patmos," said Ms King. "The great thing is that the hotel only costs £5 a night."

Steve Webb, who until the general election was Professor of Social Policy at Bath University, was forced to cancel a holiday in Wales, booked for July, when he unexpectedly won Northavon for the Liberal Democrats. "It did not seem too bright an idea to be going on holiday during the Budget, which took place within our original holiday dates," he said. "We stood to lose nearly £600 when we had to cancel, but fortunately we were able to rebook with the same company."

He is now taking a fortnight's holiday in September near Cardigan.

Some of the new intake have found it so hard to let go of their pre-election jobs that they plan to go back to their old lives during the summer recess. Desmond Swayne, the new Conservative MP for New Forest West and a Territorial Army Major, is heading for Northumberland for a two-week TA camp in September. He and his family are not planning any holiday except a spot of "body boarding" — a form of surfing — in west Wales.

Perhaps the most extraordinary plan is that of Crawley's new Labour MP, Laura Moffatt, a former nurse, who intends to work shifts at Crawley



Martin Bell and Chris Smith have been spotted in Tuscany

Hospital during September after a three-week holiday in Florida with ten family members this month. "I am a trained nurse and I miss the work," she said. "This will give me a real understanding of what is going on in the NHS."

He is not the only one keen to score Brownie points with his political masters. Welsh MPs have been urged to stay at home and campaign for devolution, so Welsh Secretary Ron Davies and Welsh Office Ministers Peter Hain and Wyn Griffiths are doing just that. Welsh Labour MPs Rhodri and Julie Morgan are even caravanning through Wales to spread the devolution message. However, after the referendum on September 18 they will escape to Greece.

For MPs who fought safe seats in the election, holiday planning has been a little easier. Many have been spotted in Tuscany, including Tony Blair (who has now moved on with his family to St Martin d'Oydes in France),

Culture Minister Chris Smith, and Leominster Tory Peter Temple-Morris. Martin Bell, the new MP for Tatton, is also there. "I had thought of going to Croatia, but too many people will recognise me," he said.

There has been an interesting change," said Keith Berton, head of corporate affairs at the Association of British Travel Agents. "When the Conservatives were in power they went off to Tuscany and France on cultural holidays, and Labour MPs were going off on long-haul trips to places like Australia."

"Now Labour is in government and has moved closer to the Conservatives politically — at the same time as going on similar holidays."

The popularity of European holidays with New Labour may also be because MPs, especially senior government figures, must be reasonably close to home in case a crisis arises and they need to fly back. Many are also packing powerful GSM mobile phones, which receive calls throughout much of Europe. Consumer Affairs Minister Nigel Griffiths took a mobile Nokia fax phone and an Ericsson mobile phone with him on his holiday to La Rochelle, in France. He kept one attached to his swimming trunks and received faxes while sitting on the beach.

Mr Brown doubted whether many others had gone this far. "I cannot see them tucking their pagers into their swimming trunks and putting them on to vibrate mode," he said. "But the vast majority of MPs, especially the new ones, have been very enthusiastic about keeping in touch."

It's official: summer hols are sold out

Members of Parliament are not the only ones finding it difficult to book a last-minute holiday. The rest of us are also having to hunt for bargains because there is very little left on travel agents' shelves.

The industry has finally hit the right balance between the number of holidays it can sell and the number of customers available. Holiday companies are still stung by the memory of summer 1995, when they grossly over-estimated demand and had to sell many holidays at rock-bottom prices. Since then, they have reduced the number of summer packages on sale.

Keith Berton, at the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA), said another reason for the shortage this year was the dismal weather in Britain earlier this summer, which pushed up demand for foreign holidays.

"If you are still looking for a holiday and have not booked yet, then you will have to be very flexible and take what is left," he said. What is left includes Greece, which has suffered a drop in the number of foreign visitors after complaints about higher prices and falling standards. Countries that are out of season in our summer — such as Egypt, which is extremely hot, and the Caribbean, which can be hot and humid — are also a good bet for a last-minute bargain. But there is little left in Majorca and the Costa del Sol in Spain, the most popular destinations this summer for British holidaymakers, or in Turkey, where the cheap cost of living is proving a lure for nearly one million of us.

Some companies have even increased the price of last-minute holidays, rather than offering late bargains. Airtrous, the country's second biggest tour operator, has added £20 to the cost of holidays bought and taken this month. "Peak season holidays are now very thin on the ground," said Richard Carrick, marketing director of Airtrous. "It is almost impossible to find anything for next week, although there is some availability from the second week of September on, once the school holidays are over."

Sue Ockwell, for the Association of Independent Tour Operators, said those who can wait until September or October to take their breaks (like our MPs), will find far greater choice. "If you go to Greece in late September you will find there is absolutely glorious weather," she said. "France,

LATE BREAKS

IF YOU want to join your MP on holiday, here's where to go:

■ Tuscany: A family of four in an apartment at the Fattoria Canale villa in Tuscany pay £1,786 for a week's self-catering, leaving Gatwick on August 30. Who you might bump into: Martin Bell, Chris Smith.

■ The Dordogne: A week in a converted windmill, through Best of France, £405 per couple, including Dover-Calais ferry crossings. Who you might bump into: Joan Ruddock, Minister for Women.

■ Majorca: Cosmos has two weeks' self-catering, from Gatwick on September 1, for £309. Who you might bump into: David Blunkett, Education and Employment Secretary.

IF YOU would prefer not to find politicians on the next sunbed, try these:

■ Rave it up in Ibiza for 14 nights with Thomson, leaving Gatwick on August 30, for £331 per person, self-catering.

■ Disneyworld offers a three-week fly-drive holiday based in Orlando, leaving Manchester on August 30 with Thomson, for £299 per person.

■ Soak up the sun with two weeks' self-catering in the Algarve with Cosmos, flying from Birmingham on August 31, for £348 per person.

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after August, is nice and empty, and if you are thinking of seeing any of the wonderful sights in southern Spain, September and October are far more pleasant than August."

There is one final piece of bad news for those MPs who have had to cancel their holidays: any claim they make on the cancellation section of their travel insurance policy is unlikely to succeed. The Association of British Insurers explained that if you book a holiday and then lose your job unexpectedly, your travel insurance policy will probably pay out if you then cancel the trip. "But losing or winning an election is an event that you can foresee, not a sudden, unexpected occurrence, so the insurer will probably not pay out," a spokesman said.

CATH URQUHART



Holidays are very thin on the ground for British tourists

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Crete and Paxos: Visit the Greek islands out of season and the warm hospitality will make you reluctant to leave

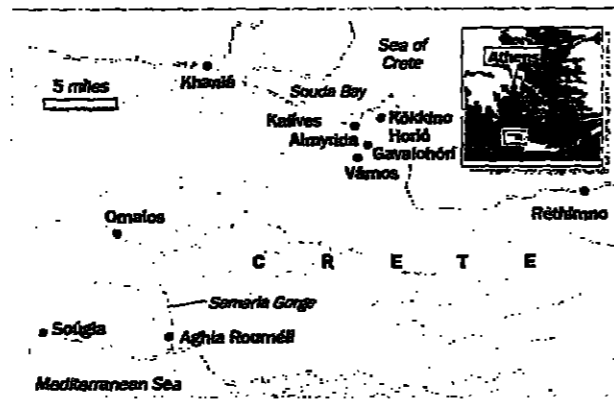


Fish on sale at the weekly market in Chania, where you can also buy oranges and tomatoes, bunches of herbs and camomile flowers and bottles of raki a "lit bit strong"

And Elena sends her love

Four weeks after we got back from our holiday in Crete, a postcard dropped through the door. On the front were a bunch of flowers and the words "I love you"; on the back, a Greek stamp. What was this? Had my wife been indulging in a secret holiday romance? But no — the card was for our almost-two-year-old, Adam, and it was signed "Kisses, Elena".

We had thought long and hard about where to take a toddler on holiday. We had wanted to fly — a last chance before his second birthday, after which you have to pay for a seat — but a long journey with a child on your lap would be too wearing. He would like a beach; we wanted to walk. It



had to be somewhere which would be warm in May, where we could avoid the crowds and where we could eat out at night. A year earlier we had all

enjoyed Paxos, so we settled on a return to Greece — only one of the larger islands with direct flights. Crete sounded good, so we went to the specialist Simply Crete and

ended up in Almeritha, in the less developed western half of the island.

Almeritha, on the edge of the Varnos peninsula looking out across Souda Bay, is perfect for families with small children. A long, gently shelving beach of shallow water leads around from the fishing harbour to a smaller beach backed by tamarisks and a whitewashed shrine. Half a dozen tavernas lean over the water and in any one of them you can dine well on salad, an assortment of starters, grilled fresh fish and wine — plus the inevitable glass of raki from the owner — for £15 for two.

There are two shops, a kiosk and a handful of bars — enough for the village to be self-contained but not enough for it to feel spoilt. The baker, fishmonger and greengrocer bring their produce around by truck, with old-fashioned scales hanging from the back. A five-minute taxi ride — or a pleasant two-mile walk along the coast — leads to the larger resort of Kalives, where you can buy fresh olive bread and yesterday's English papers.

Staying in a small village, Adam became our passport to the community. Neighbours gave him lessons from the orchard and flowers from the garden; waiters presented him with fruit, biscuits and drinks. Children came round to our apartment to read his books and share his puzzles; all verbal barriers seemed to disappear in the universal language of childhood.

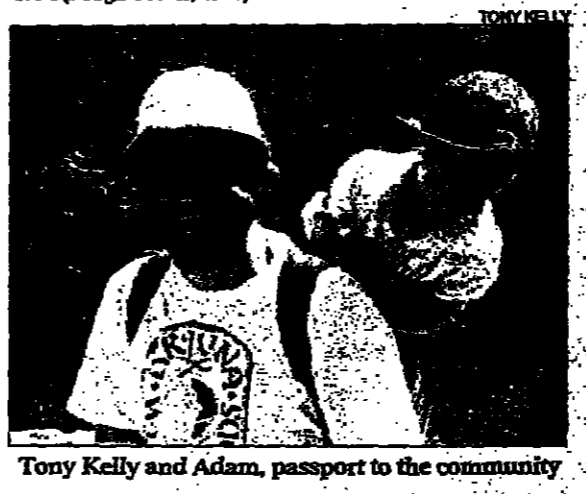
Then there was Elena. She had a cat on the seafloor, where the taxi drivers would sip ouzo between jobs and we would take our evening aperitifs. As we nibbled our meals, Adam and Elena made friends. Each day he would emerge from the kitchen, beaming and clutching his latest gift. On the day we left, presents and addresses were exchanged, tears were shed, and Elena promised to write. Hence the postcard. If you are reading this, Elena, Adam loves you too.

We spent our mornings walking on old mule tracks between the White Mountains (still snow-clad in May) and the sea. Poppies grew beneath silvery olive trees and the hedges sparkled with crown daisies and purple vetch.

One day we walked to Gavalachori, where an old Venetian-Turkish cottage has been turned into a village museum, full of local artefacts, household goods, costumes and musical instruments. Another day we climbed to the hilltop hamlet of Kokkino Horia, where parts of *Zorba the Greek* were filmed. Donkeys still work the fields and in the village we drank coffee with the old men who sit

CRETE FACT FILE

- Tony Kelly and his family travelled with Simply Crete (0181-994 4462), which offers deals during October, when the weather — and the sea — are still warm.
- The one-bedroom Armoia apartment in Almeritha, where the Kellys stayed, costs £327 per person per week, based on four sharing, or £423 for two weeks, based on two sharing. Prices are based on flights from Gatwick to Chania; flights from Manchester cost £25 extra per person.
- Simply Crete also offers rooms at the Rodon Hotel in Chania, where the Kellys stayed, costs £249 per person for one week, based on two sharing, flying from Gatwick. The two-bedroom Lefteris Villa at Stavros costs £471 per person for two weeks, based on four sharing, including car hire and flights from Gatwick. Simply Crete makes a flat charge of £30 for children under two.
- Car hire can be booked through Simply Crete from £145 a week, or arranged locally in Almeritha for about £20 a day.
- Other Crete specialists include Pure Crete (0181-760 0879) and Freedom Holidays (01789 29705).
- Reading: *The Travel Bookshop* (0171-229 5260) recommends *Zorba the Greek* by Nikos Kazantzakis (Paber and Faber, £5.99), *Crete* (Rough Guides, £8.99).



Tony Kelly and Adam, passport to the community

underneath the vines, for all the world as if the film crew were still there attempting to capture a timeless Greek scene.

On Saturday we took the bus to Chania, Crete's second city, to explore the weekly market — mounds of oranges and tomatoes, heaps of aubergines and courgettes, bunches of herbs and camomile flowers, bottles of raki which came with a health warning: "it lit bit strong".

Behind the covered market, shops in "Leather Alley" sold sandals for £5 and knee-length shepherds' boots for £50. We had lunch at Pizzeria Hot (sic) beside the Venetian harbour, lined with trendy cafes where students played backgammon and sipped iced coffee while listening to loud rock music. A horse-and-carriage ride around the harbour (£7 for the family) was tremendous fun and the sort of thing you would be too embarrassed to do without a child.

The most memorable day trip was to the Samaria Gorge, Europe's longest, which drops 4,000 feet in just ten miles from the Omalos plateau to the Libyan Sea. A taxi left us in Chania at dawn, as the fishing

boats set sail and the last revellers stumbled out of the bars.

By 8.30am the tour bus had dropped us at the top of the gorge, just beneath the snow line. The walk led down through a dozen different ecosystems with dramatically changing landscapes — now lush, now barren, now narrow, now wide, fields of asphodel and dragon arum, shady woods full of flowering thyme.

We filled our bottles with cool water from mountain springs.

Eventually we reached a narrow pass where cliffs 1,000 feet high meet across a stream just a few feet wide. Six hours of steep descent, trying to hold your balance on slippery stepping-stones with 30lb of toddler on your back, is not everyone's idea of fun, but I felt exhilarated.

The gorge ends at Ayia Roumeli, where a boat took us to Souvli and the bus journey back to Almeritha.

There we spent our mornings in the olive groves and our afternoons on the beach, and went to cafes and tavernas where we felt we were not just tourists but friends.

And all because of a 21-month-old child.

TONY KELLY



The rugged limestone cliffs of Paxos's west coast

Honeyed isle of olives and Pan's people

There are more than a quarter of a million olive trees on Paxos, Edward Lear, who sailed over from neighbouring Corfu in 1853, described the trees as "straggling and long-stemmed". Victorian painters must have loved the island: a clear light shines on every flower, describing it in sharp detail, every stalk has its shadow.

We stayed on the edge of the village of Loggos in a large old house with buttermilk walls, petal-blue shutters and, on the upper floor, an ornate wrought-iron balcony. A palm tree cast its shade like a giant parasol and an orange tree appeared to be hung with lanterns.

Large, ribbed urns, to collect rainwater, stand outside most houses. Water is scarce on the island. There is one unreliable stream and a few springs. Until the early years of the 19th century, water was shipped over from the mainland, drawn from brackish wells, or gathered in rock cisterns. Later, during French rule, the reservoirs were constructed.

The baker makes rough, sour bread and there is an excellent, slightly granular local honey. The food in the tavernas was always good: a variety of fish, marinated in olive oil, lemon and oregano, grilled over olive wood and vine clippings; hearty stews such as *stifado*, rich and sweet with onions; diamonds of *revvati* (shrimp and honey cake), with coffee.

A path to the windmill was partially cobbled, smooth pebbles pressed into the clay and bounded by pale drystone walls. All around us grew prickly pear cacti and Spanish broom, its flowers bursting like yellow flames. Blue carpenter bees flew around drunkenly, bumping into things.

From the windmill we looked down over the harbour. Overgrown terraces slanted towards the sea, blue headier and myrtle interrupted by cypress trees. My son gathered spent cartridges, each a different colour. In earlier times, the islanders caught migratory doves by standing on roofs and waving nets. Now they blast them at close range.

Loggos is on the eastern side of Paxos. The western side is more rugged, less populated, its coastline of limestone cliffs punctuated with gapping cays and lonely pillars.

We wanted to look at the Tripiti arch, which meant catching the bus (a chancy arrangement, because it can arrive and leave half an hour earlier than scheduled) to Zerehisitika. From there, the walk to the cliffs was easy, but we kept stopping to look at the wild flowers around our feet: asphodels, Myrian gladioli, creamy-white cuckoo-pint, dark-leaved mint, lambs' tongues, rose in the mist.



FACT FILE

■ The author travelled to Paxos with Corfu & La Cote (01635 201449). Four people sharing, including self-catering, Villa Konstantina for a week in September would pay from £349 each, including return flights to Corfu and ferry transfer to Loggos. For children aged two to 16, there is a £50 discount.

■ Other tour operators to Paxos include Simply Ionian (0181-995 1121) and CV Travel (0171-581 0651).

■ Further information from the Greek National Tourist Organisation, 4 Conduit Street, London W1 (0171-734 5997).

■ Reading: *The Travel Bookshop* (0171-229 5260) recommends *Stare over Paxos*, by John Gill (Pavilion, £12.99), *Landscape of Paxos*, (Sunflower Books, £6.50).

scarlet and blue pimpernels. Gradually, the landscape changed from olive groves to open hillside. We had a strong sense of the ancient world, as if the Argo might sail past at any moment on its way to Ithaca.

There is an intriguing legend about Paxos. One night in the 1st century AD, Thamius the Egyptian, the pilot of a passing ship, heard a loud voice calling from the cliffs, telling him that Pan was dead and urging him to relay the information to the mainland. Christians believe that the announcement was made on the same night as the Crucifixion and symbolises the passing of the old religion.

If Pan died that night, lesser satyrs have survived in the island's folklore. Known as *kallikanzaros*, they are pig-like creatures with cloven hoofs and pointed ears. Their chief occupation is making mischief: leaving doors unlocked and turning milk sour.

JOE ROBERTS



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Manchester: music and a city makeover have spawned a bustling café society, says York Membery

Why you should be here now...



Noel and Liam Gallagher of Oasis have helped to put Manchester back on the map — but there is much more to celebrate than the music scene as the city strives to make the most of its heritage

FACT FILE

- **York Membery** travelled with Virgin Trains. Return tickets from London to Manchester cost from £17.50 (pre-booked and travelling after 11am). Bookings: 0345 222333.
- **Accommodation:** The author was a guest of the Crowne Plaza Midland Hotel (0161-236 3333), which has a special weekend rate of £99 a night for couples. For budget accommodation, try the Castlefield YHA (0161-839 9960).
- For further details about Manchester, ring the Information Centre (0161-234 3157) or the 24-hour premium rate phone guide (0891 715533). For Popstastic tour information, ring 0161-872 3013.
- **SIX HAPPENING PLACES TO BE SEEN**
- **Boardwalk.** Little Peter Street (0161-228 3555) — the club where Oasis first performed.
- **Sankeys Soap.** Jersey Street (0161-950 4230) — techno club in a former soap factory.
- **Metz.** 3 Brazil Street (0161-237 9852) — a restaurant serving a modern East European-based cuisine.
- **Mash & Air.** Chorlton Street (0161-661 1111) — stylish restaurant-bar in a converted mill.
- **Barca.** Duke Street, Castlefield (0161-839 7099) — restaurant-bar part-owned by Simply Red's Mick Hucknall.
- **Prague Five.** Chorlton Street (0161-236 9033) — a popular late-night bar.

Thirty odd years ago, the Beatles' *White Album* was the last time Manchester's turn to bask in the reflected glory of a world-beating band — in this case, Oasis, whose latest album, *Definitely Dead*, has just been released.

The five-piece group is Manchester's best-known export of the Nineties — and in a curious parallel, the city itself is enjoying a renaissance. Ashamed as I am to admit it, I'm one of those sad southerners who has been north of Watford only a handful of times — and when I have, it has been to visit such places as Stratford-upon-Avon or Scotland. Like many southerners, I associated Manchester with grey skies, a drab industrial landscape and urban decay. In fact, it has much to offer the visitor, young or old.

Most teenagers are familiar with the city's vibrant youth culture and thriving club scene — as befits somewhere that has spawned as diverse a collection of musical talents as the Happy Mondays and the Stone Roses, the Smiths, and, of course, Oasis. But there's no shortage of young pretenders to Oasis's throne, with 6,000 young bands in the area. Who

knows you could catch the new Oasis in action at a bar such as Night & Day, which showcases three unsigned acts a night?

This burgeoning youth culture has been accompanied by an equally dramatic transformation of formerly run-down inner-city areas into entertainment centres, which make full use of the attractive canal-side locations and handsome Victorian buildings to create a sort of Amsterdam of the North. The two places that best exemplify the exciting new Manchester arising from the ruins of the old are the so-called 'Gay Village' around Canal Street, and Castlefield.

While the pink pound has helped to finance the transformation of the Canal Street area into a buzzing social spot, it is not overtly gay. If anything, heterosexuals outnumber homosexuals. Pubs, clubs, and stylish new restaurants, such as Mash & Air — the creation of entrepreneur Oliver Peyton — and Metz line the Rochdale Canal and it is difficult to believe you are in the Manchester of popular myth when you're dining out on a balmy summer's night.

About 15 minutes walk south along the waterway, you reach Castlefield, until a few years ago a wasteland of



It's my round: Manchester's cafes and pubs are thriving

railway viaducts. Now the area, where the River Medlock meets the Bridgewater and Rochdale canals, has been spruced up and is home to trendy restaurant-bars such as Barca, part-owned by Simply Red star Mick Hucknall and a popular late-night haunt with Manchester United players. (However, be warned: auto-graph hunters are unwelcome.) Another place where you can rub shoulders with celebrities is the nearby Boardwalk, the club where

Oasis made their stage debut minus Noel Gallagher — six years ago this month.

Die-hard Oasis fans from as far afield as Japan now visit Manchester to follow the Oasis trail — with Blue Badge guide Jonathan Schofield organising a Popstastic tour of the city, which takes in the Burnage council estate where Liam and Noel grew up. Despite being portrayed in the tabloids as an inner-city slum, it is surprisingly leafy, and the Gallagher residence, with its

freshly painted front door and neat wooden fence, is a model of suburban respectability. The stars' mother, Peggy, has even been known to invite fans in for cups of tea.

For all the talk of youth culture, Manchester's Victorian legacy is still very much in evidence. It's a mixed legacy. Some parts of the city — particularly in the east — are still characterised by the sort of urban deprivation that is rarely found in southern England. But the flip side to its years as an industrial dynamo, which saw it dubbed Cottonopolis, is that Manchester is home to one of the greatest concentrations of Victorian and Edwardian architecture in Britain.

Pride of place must go to the Victorian Gothic masterpiece which is Manchester Town Hall. This magnificent building with its Big Ben-style clock tower, which opened in 1877, was designed by Alfred Waterhouse. Architecturally, it is the nearest thing to a Parliament of the North — a testament to the city's wealth and belief that it was every bit the equal of London. The Great Hall inside, with its hammer-beam roof and Ford Madox Brown paintings, is open during the week and is well worth seeing.

Another fine example of modern Gothic architecture is the John Rylands Library in

Deansgate, dating back to the 1890s, which houses one of the country's most important collections of rare books and manuscripts.

Granted, the city might now be a hotch-potch of architectural styles ranging from the Gothic Victorian splendour of its older buildings to postwar abominations such as the Arndale Centre to the £12 million post-modern Bridgewater Hall, the stunning new home of the Halle Orchestra. But for every abomination, there is a gem waiting to be discovered, be it the Palace Hotel or the Methodist chapel in St Mary's Gate, which is now home to a Sticky Fingers restaurant.

What's more, the lessons of the past have been learnt and the great mills and warehouses of yesteryear are now being turned into apartments or businesses rather than torn down. Manchester is also

the perfect base from which to explore the North West. Salford Art Gallery, which houses the world's foremost collection of Lowry paintings, is on its doorstep. Liverpool, with its Beatles heritage, famed Mersey Ferry and Victorian architecture, is little over 30 miles to the west. And the beautiful Peak District is a stone's throw to the east.

The heart of Manchester may have been ripped out by last year's IRA bomb, but the city is fighting back. It knows



Manchester Town Hall with its Big Ben-style tower

it can never be London, but its canals, architecture and Merseylink tram service help to give it a distinctive, almost Continental feel. There's a new air of optimism about the place, which is confident that

its future will be as great as its past. The new Oasis album *Definitely Dead* may have been inspired by a John Lennon quip, but it could just as well be a rallying cry for the Manchester of the Nineties.

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WORD WATCHING
Answers from page 23
CANDENT
(b) At a white heat, glowing with heat. From the Latin *candere* to be white, to glow. "The candent hearth, the ruddy lurid rowl of smiths."
CRINKUM-CRANKUM
(b) A word applied playfully to anything full of twists and turns, or intricately and fancifully elaborated. Cf. *gimcrack* and *knick-knack*. A euphemism from crinkum a venerable disease. "Here's none of your straight lines here — but all taste — zigzag — crinkum-crankum — in and out."
CAPITILE
(a) A chapter of a book (or the like). A chapter or a capital city. From the Latin *capitulum* a little head, the diminutive of *caput* a head. "Bochas gain direct his stile/ To write the story."
CUISH
(c) Or *cuisse*. Armour for protecting the front part of the thighs. In the singular, a thigh-piece. Old French from the Latin *coxa* a hip. Walter Scott, *Lord of the Isles*, 1814: "Helm, cuish, and breastplate stream'd with gore."

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AROUND THE WORLD: A WEEKEND GUIDE

JILL CRAWSHAW'S TRAVEL TIPS

Live like a Shaker

THE newly restored Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill in Kentucky makes it possible for visitors to sample a taste of the old Shaker lifestyle and examine the sect's sturdy back-to-basics furniture, now so fashionable.

In the 1830s, 500 members of the United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing lived in the village. Known as "Shakers" due to their trembling during their devotional dance, they believed in a simple, hard-working life of celibacy, adopting orphans to carry on their beliefs.

Rooms at the village cost £46 per night and Premier Holidays (01787 884031) can offer stays there on tailor-made self-drive holidays to the southern states. A ten-day package including flights, car hire and accommodation in Kentucky, Nashville and Memphis costs £745 per person.

Treasure trove

THERE is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to view the treasures of Mount Athos during a ten-day Macedonia Tour organised by Greek specialist Filoxenia (01422 375099). The tour in mid-September will be accompanied by archaeologist Mike Curtis.

To mark Thessaloniki's tenure as European Capital for Culture, the Byzantine Museum is displaying the priceless icons, frescoes and manuscripts which have not left Mount Athos for nearly a thousand years. The holy mountain is still occupied by monks and is forbidden territory to women. The tour, which costs £820 per person B&B, also takes in



Priceless artefacts from Mount Athos on view in Thessaloniki

Thessaloniki, Kavala, Philippi, Mount Olympus, Pella and the island of Thassos.

Welsh history

THE Penryn family at Penrhyn Castle, near Bangor in Wales, developed their estate with profits from sugar and Welsh slate, their vast 19th-century neo-Norman castle a statement of their wealth and the almost feudal power they wielded over the community.

Local reaction to the family and its beneficence has been ambiguous ever since.

The Yorke family at nearby Erdigg adopted a different outlook and a closer relationship with their servants; they actually gave them rooms with views over the gardens — almost unheard of in their day. Such *Upstairs, Downstairs* attitudes are the subject of a "One Era, Two Attitudes?" weekend (September 19-21), run by the National Trust and the Historical Association (0171-735 3901) at Bangor University, for £160. Day visits to Penrhyn are also available.

Clinton-on-sea

WHILE Tony Blair and family have received a warm reception during their holiday in Italy and France (see page 17), not all New Englanders are ecstatic about the brouhaha surrounding President Bill Clinton's holiday in Martha's Vineyard off Cape Cod, or his stopover at Block Island, 12 miles off Rhode Island.

Residents and regular summer visitors to Martha's Vineyard are still sensitive about the notorious Kennedy scandal at Chappaquiddick, although it was 30 years ago, and do not welcome any more security men, police and photographers. Block Island, just seven miles by seven, is home to 150 bird species and 850 residents who jealously preserve its simple life and green tourism. In any case, Mr Clinton, being a Democrat, is not the New Englanders' ideal cup of clam chowder — most prefer the Republican George Bush.

BOULOGNE, now bypassed by most cross-Channel traffic, is a much more attractive port than Calais. For the rest of this year it can be visited on a day trip, costing £18 for two people, from 15 railway stations in London and the South East. The offer is from Hoverspeed (0990 240241), using



Shaker women, photographed in 1895. They believed in a hard-working, celibate life and adopted orphans to carry on their beliefs.

its 55-minute SeaCat service from Folkestone to Boulogne.

African art

ONE of the world's largest collection of rock paintings — 3,000 or so vivid bird, seal and spoor illustrations — is scattered around the rocks at Twyfelfontein in Namibia. A visit there is included in the itinerary of a tour in

October organised by culture specialist Prospect (0181-995 2151).

Also included on the tour is the White Lady in the Brandenberg foothills, the best-known example of Namibia's rock art, perhaps more famous for her interpretation than for her aesthetic appeal. She was christened the White Lady by one Abbot Breuil who believed her to be of European origin; others are sure she is a

young African daubed in white for a traditional ceremony.

The tour stays well off the Namibian tourist track, exploring newly discovered sites in the Erongo Mountains, parts of the Etosha Game Reserve not yet open to the public. Himbabala, home to the nomadic Himba tribe, and the remote Kaokoland. The price of the tour is £2,250 including food, accommodation, tips and flights.

Snow tours

TWENTY-SIX small independent ski companies, offering resorts ranging from Antillanca in Chile and Chacabamba in Bolivia to Zuz and Zinal in Switzerland, are listed in the new *Ski Directory* from the Association of Independent Tour Operators (AITO), available free from 0181-607 9080. Also included are firms offering

polar bear and whale watching, dog-sledding and winter journeys in the Arctic and summer skiing in the Andes, as well as beginners' and special family holidays.

Many AITO firms are direct-sell only; all are bonded for financial protection.

SALZBURG Old City has been declared a World Heritage Site by Unesco — one of 506 sites in 105 countries. The official handover of the certificate will take place during Salzburg's Old City Festival on September 11 and 12. The Schonbrunn Palace in Vienna has also been declared a World Heritage Site.

Scotch fiesta

IN October, Edinburgh will host a festival somewhat less cerebral than the one currently taking place there. The first Edinburgh and Speyside Whisky Festival will feature blend-your-own-whisky sessions, whisky master classes, celebrity cookery demos, "illicit still walks", a whisky nosing competition, cellists and tastings.

Festival visitors will be introduced to Gaelic whiskies "to taste unchillified whisky... that is, real whisky, as it used to be". More details from the International Scotch Whisky Festival Office (0131-556 7441).

Talk Turkey

A MILLION holidaymakers from Britain will have visited Turkey this year, 16 per cent more than last summer. There will be even more in 1998, according to Sunworld (0990 550440), particularly in Antalya, Belek and the Bodrum peninsula.

Turkey's pride and joy, the new purpose-built resort of Belek, is aimed at those who want quality hotel complexes with pools, children's clubs, activities, golf — and almost no Turkish atmosphere. A week's half-board next summer will cost £299-£339 per person with Sunworld.

The airport at Bodrum is expected to be fully open for next season. At present most passengers fly into Dalaman, then face a three to four-hour bus transfer to Bodrum.

POCKET-SIZED Belize, which was British Honduras until 1981, is a new destination for 1998 from Kuoni (01233 211600). It is 70 per cent covered by forests, boasts fine Mayan remains and has an enlightened environmental policy. A week's Discovery Tour, combined with either Costa Rica or a week in a Mexican beach resort, will cost from about £1,099 per person.

The Times holiday jumbo crossword

ACROSS

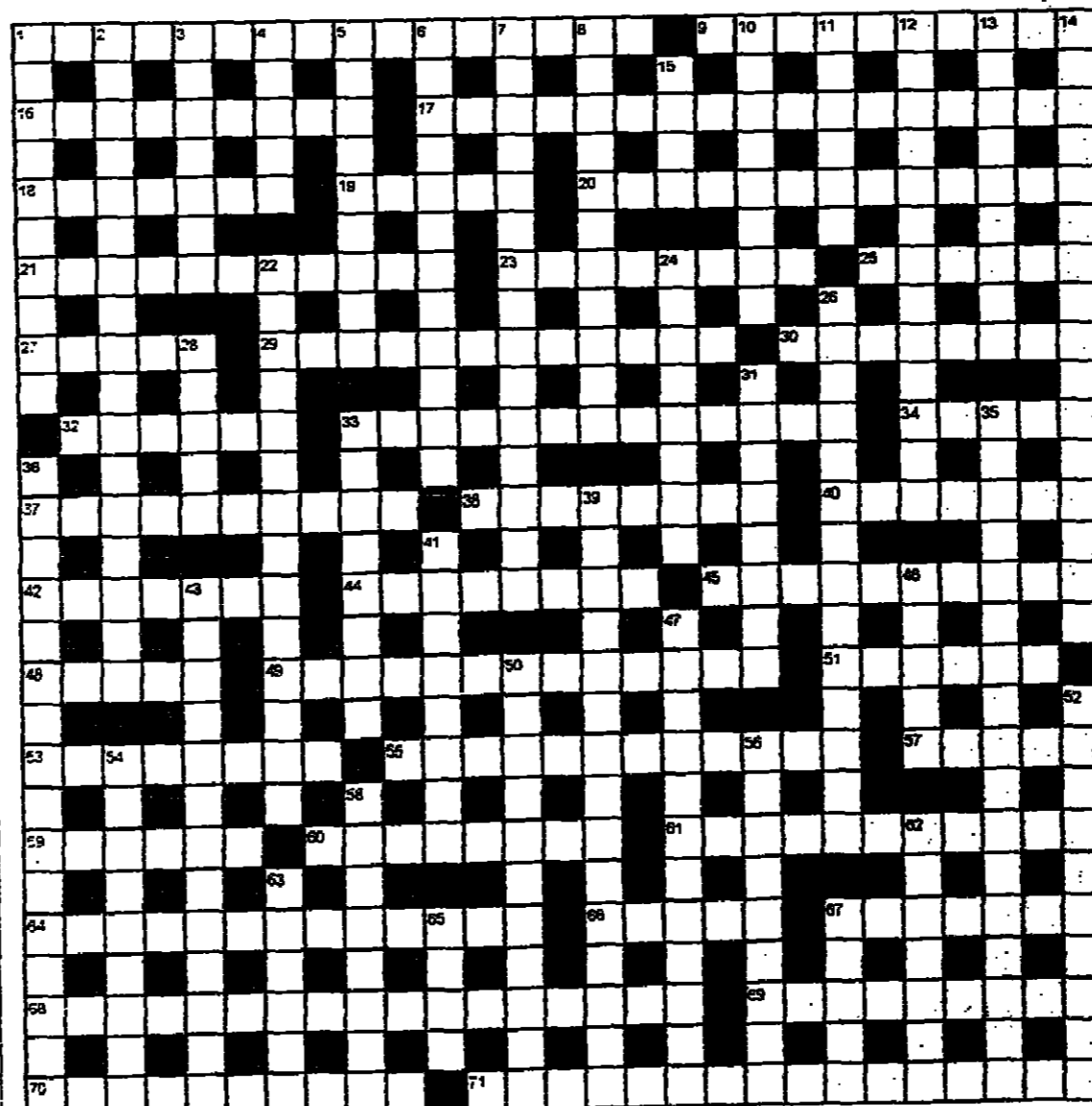
- 1 Milton's work is included in review, a medley of English reading (8,5)
- 9 Frolicking like a blithe spirit? (10)
- 16 Put in again to collect bill (9)
- 17 Dances around because it's a comic performance (7,3,7)
- 18 Unfortunately I can exercise without achieving suppleness (7)
- 19 Very old festive occasion — outsiders not admitted (5)
- 20 Body made more attractive by intake of juice (13)
- 21 Unsentimental view about soldier with respect to local loyalties (11)
- 23 In which all aboard were shipmates (5,3)
- 25 Plant opening in mild summer (6)
- 27 Punjabi has eventually retired to address in India (5)
- 29 Ten Irish died at sea, cut off (12)
- 30 Begin to take in thread in operation (6,2)
- 32 Shakespearean character actors in Othello, taking part (6)
- 33 Children caught playing this game get smacked (8,5)
- 34 At home with mathematical task, to put it briefly (2,3)
- 37 Censured by former unit and discharged (10)
- 38 Going away in old hat with fringe (8)
- 40 River bore is most mysterious (7)
- 42 Powerful shocks rocking Sumatra (7)
- 44 The UN had ordered recruit from another company (4-4)
- 45 Small but generous contribution of champagne to strike (6,4)
- 48 Do so, for example, for some money (5)
- 49 Enthusiasts for this activity rising to record numbers? (5-5)
- 51 Liable to change (6)
- 53 Struck with boring task inside (5)
- 55 Remembered French as spoken by Monsieur (12)
- 57 Spanish drink port? Yes, in another country (5)
- 59 Feverish until cold disappeared, then went out (6)
- 60 Food in cans required metal fasteners (3-5)
- 61 High-fliers getting inflationary rises (11)
- 64 Improved standard in higher examination (8,5)
- 66 One who has no head for tranquilliser (5)
- 67 Shaw's major title role (7)
- 68 Book produced by Leo's company, with Jude newly put in charge (5,3,9)
- 69 How spineless creatures control their feelings, and can settle trouble (9)
- 70 Those who have played around, say, find themselves in a hole here (10)
- 71 In which tides are near mean, however varying (13,3)

DOWN

- 1 Change the wording — orders appear rash (10)
- 2 Get hard with recitation when there's disorder, doing this (7,3,4,5)
- 3 Girl leading horse to browse (3,4)
- 4 Scandalous photo in extremely smutty case (5)
- 5 Old fighter dependent on network for his living (9)
- 6 Hunted animals on promontory without any joie de vivre (12)
- 7 In short, this is it! (7,8)
- 8 Detailed account of mountaineer's disaster (11)
- 10 They may get thumbs down for getting tight (8)
- 11 Stupid fellow's not started puzzle (6)
- 12 Like judge of underworld, heard somehow about a fine chap put inside (1,3)
- 13 Extinct creature supplying island with fertiliser to put on (9)
- 14 This dam's achieved sustained generational production (5-11)
- 15 Sign to remove piece from model engine (4)
- 22 Cases heard (5,9)
- 24 Put one's view firmly and succeeded getting point over (5,3)
- 26 Fellow artist initially idly drew ducks and crow (4-1-6-3)
- 28 Colour party in US includes mounted soldier (5)
- 31 Faunthorpe, say, using line and new rod to fish (8)
- 33 A couple of birds finally found landing-place (4-4)
- 35 They help Old Bill to reveal unusual swindle with racehorses (7,10)
- 36 Background article on former Liberal establishing a pattern (7,2,7)
- 39 Dictatorial railway regulator organised minibus lines, too (6,9)
- 41 Artist put on one new layer of paint as protective cover (8)
- 43 As a rule, it's far from satisfactory (13)
- 46 It's cool on the wagon (5)
- 47 Enter zone in turmoil about black oily compound (12)
- 50 Note craze between rivers for fruit-growing (11)
- 52 Mr Dorrit was indebted for his time here (10)
- 54 Herb, endlessly striving for superiority, is pestering (9)
- 56 Open-minded type giving time to one side first, then to the other (9)
- 58 Island with very small population (8)
- 62 Detached state of individual vehicle in rainstorm (7)
- 63 Intermediary's attempt to contact the other side (8)
- 65 Struggle with survey (4)
- 67 African republic's game opponents kept in store (5)

TEST YOUR WORD POWER IN OUR CROSSWORD COMPETITION

Prizes of £100 will be given for the first six correct solutions opened on Monday, September 8, 1997. Entries should be sent to: August Jumbo Crossword, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The winner and solution will be published in *Weekend* on Saturday, September 13.



NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
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Times Two August Bank Holiday Crossword

There are no prizes for this crossword. The answers will be published on Monday.

ACROSS

- 1 Finest clothes (4,3,3,6)
- 9 Wander aimlessly (5,5)
- 10 Boisterous (10)
- 16 Dilapidation (9)
- 17 I shan't say how I know (6,4,4,2)
- 18 Make smarter; (wind) get up (7)
- 19 Passage through seats (5)
- 20 Passive acceptance (3-10)
- 21 Reminding note (4-7)
- 23 Assess (8)
- 25 Associate (with) (6)
- 27 Gaschouse; deposit (5)
- 29 Make bad news palatable (5,3,4)
- 30 Follow tourist trail (8)
- 32 Jap. hostess (6)
- 33 Girlfriend of hoodlum (9,4)
- 34 Plinth; close (anag.) (5)
- 37 Brownbeat (10)
- 38 Wooden packing case (3-5)
- 40 Interrupt, upset (7)
- 42 Arcade game (7)
- 44 Carry on (business) (8)
- 45 (Boat) capsize (4,6)
- 48 Unconcealed (5)
- 49 D H Lawrence 43-ish novel (4,3,6)
- 51 Presides over; furniture (6)
- 53 (Hair) not cut in short, even style (8)
- 55 Caesar's telegram from Britain (4,4,4)
- 57 Civvies; Muslim jurist (5)
- 59 Veg.; enticement (6)
- 60 Spectacular (8)
- 61 Classification (11)
- 64 Britten comic opera; bright learner (anag.) (6,7)
- 66 Forcefully apply (5)
- 67 Rejection; first choice (7)
- 68 Unsubstantiated (17)
- 69 Not clearly demonstrated (4-6)
- 70 Govt or parent substitute (5,5)
- 71 That's obvious (2,6,2,6)

DOWN

- 1 Hard, painful position (3,2,5)
- 2 Provisional prison term (9,8)
- 3 Sir Thomas conductor (7)
- 4 Strength; jellied pig's head (5)
- 5 Telling (tale) (9)
- 6 Handing over (12)
- 7 Passing message party game (7,8)
- 8 Fruit, not a cooker (6,5)
- 10 Lamb fillet; hazel choc (8)
- 11 Club carrier (6)
- 12 Addresses (absent listener) (13)
- 13 Trainee priests (9)
- 14 Nerves, apprehension (3,6-7)
- 15 Blood vessel (4)
- 22 Poultry (7,7)
- 24 Not in catalogue (8)
- 26 Died fighting (6,2,6)
- 28 Oaks course (5)
- 31 Outlines; curving shape (8)
- 33 Irritate, criticise, a person (2,2,3)
- 35 Attacks in response to attacks (7-10)
- 36 Wrong saying of word (16)
- 39 Unwelcome intruder (6,2,3,4)
- 43 Bosnia capital (8)
- 45 Own-life story (13)
- 46 Rid of weapons (5)
- 47 Cooked-meat shop (12)
- 50 Motorist's exam (7,4)
- 52 It is not to be publicly washed (5,5)
- 54 Scatty person (4-5)
- 56 Annoying things (9)
- 58 Vermin, thief, at docks (5,3)
- 62 Compel observance (7)
- 63 Gullible (6)
- 65 Baghdad's capital (4)
- 67 Repeated-refrain movement (5)

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CHESS

by Raymond Keene

IN AN interesting vindication of the rating system, Britain's top two ranked grandmasters, Michael Adams and Matthew Sadler, have shared first place in this year's British Championship. As befits the toughest tournament for many years, competition was fierce, and at the end of the second week of play the destination of the championship title was still unresolved. At the end of the scheduled 11 rounds the leading scores were as follows: Adams, Sadler, Miles and Emms 6-11; Sumnerscale, Hebdon, Siskiran, Ledger and Speelman 7-5; McShane and others 7.

At this stage it was ordained that a tie-breaker should occur, but even this failed to separate Adams and Sadler, who were declared joint champions by the British Chess Federation. Here is one of the decisive games from the play-off.

White: Matthew Sadler, Black: Tony Miles.
British Championship Play-off, August 1997.
French Defence.

1 d4 e6 2 e4 d5
3 Nd2 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nd7
5 Bb3

More normal, and indeed better, would be 5 Nf3 at once.

5 ... Ngf6 6 Qe2 c5
7 Nd4+ Nxd4 8 dxc5 Bxc5

White's handling of the opening has been infelicitous. In fact, he has succeeded in transposing into a variation of the Caro-Kann Defence (1 e4 c6) where White's king's knight would already have been on f3. White now has to struggle to maintain equality.

9 Bd2 0-0 10 0-0-0 Qd5

Possibly too ambitious. An alternative is 10 ... Qb6.

11 Bc3 Qg5+

11 ... Qxa2 12 Bxf6 would guarantee White at least a draw. Justifiably, Black aims for more.

12 Kb1 Nd5

If 12 ... Qxg2 again 13 Bxf6 damaging Black's kingside.

13 Be5 Qxg2

The consistent point of Black's play. Otherwise White will simply gain time against the black queen with Nf3.

14 Qb5 15 Nf3 Qg4

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene.

White to play. This position is from the game Lechynsky-Pachman, Czechoslovakia 1968. White is a piece down but, with the black queen's side undeveloped, he has a chance for a quick win. Can you see it?

Send your answer on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the *Statistical Society*. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 ... Rd1.

Last week's winner: S Liddington, Chesham, Surrey.

25 b3

Ultimately Black has no defence.

25 ... Bc6 26 Bc4 Bc7

27 a4 a6 28 a5 Bc8

29 Kb2 Bc7 30 Rgg6

This wins a piece.

30 ... Bc5 31 Bxf6+ Rxf6

32 Rxf6 Rxf6 33 Rxf6 Kg7

34 Rxf6 Bxf6 35 Bxf6 f4

36 Bd5 Black resigns

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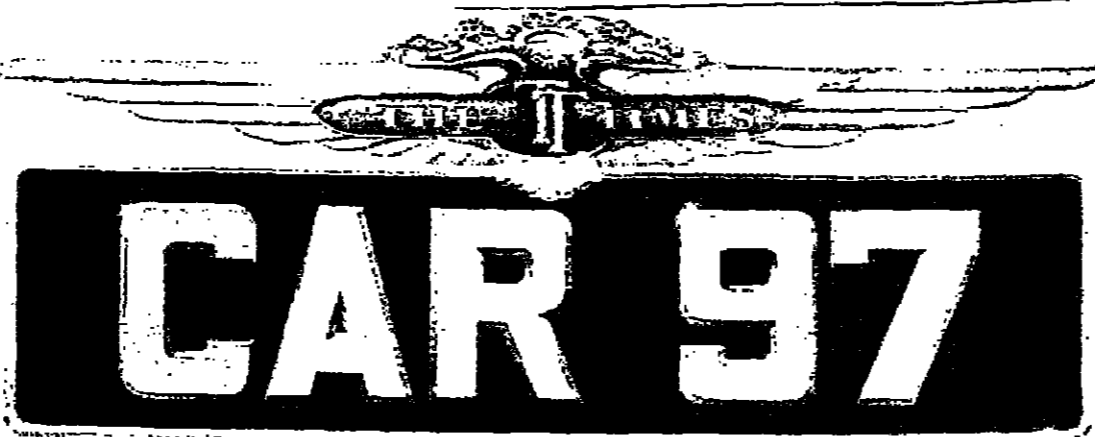
32 Rxf6 Rxf6 33 Rxf6 Kg7

3



Legal eagles who play two-wheel demons

Page 5



Back seat or front: is anywhere now safe for baby?

Page 8



SATURDAY AUGUST 23 1997

BANK HOLIDAY SPECIAL TOURING, BIKING AND PLAYING SAFE

Caravan is banned from modern life

We must now go away "touring" in marketing land, reports Kevin Eason

Just say the word and it steals the heart of even the most hardened motorist, conjuring up visions of bobble hats and anoraks, campfire sing-songs and traffic jams that go on for miles at a snail's pace.

But after 90 years, the end might have finally come for the word, if not the vehicle. For caravanners — for want of a better word — want to ban the word "caravan".

Call it anything you like, from luxury mobile to touring home, but whatever you do, don't call it a caravan or you risk the wrath of makers and showroom owners alike who fear images of *Carry on Camping* with sodden fields, leaky roofs and a mile walk to communal toilets, will damage sales.

In the spirit of marketing-speak, nobody goes caravanning anymore; they go touring instead. Ah, so much nicer. Now this is a change which will cause a cultural shock to about 285,000 diehard caravanners — who have almost overnight become tourists, or tourers, when they thought they were members of the Caravan Club.

But even they must have noticed the word slipping inconspicuously from the sales catalogues and advertisements, gradually expunged as though it might slip away from the memory to allow a bright new future to dawn.

Michael Hold, owner of Barrons Great Outdoors, Britain's biggest retailer of vehicles now not known as caravans, banned the mention of the word from his showrooms in Durham, Lancashire and Cheshire, even putting a swear-box on the counter. One slip, one unsuspecting use of the C-word by one of his 140 staff meant a donation to charity.

He reckoned sales improved once he got rid of the word caravan from the company title because the company was in fact provider of "luxury homes, mobile homes, tourers, anything but the dreaded C-word."

Many manufacturers are so sensitive to the connotations of the word caravan that they are changing their names to become makers of "leisure" or "recreational" vehicles.

Only the Caravan Club plugs away with press releases bearing the faithful word, but then caravan entered its lexicon 90 years ago on formation of the club.

In the heyday of caravanning, life was so much simpler, mummy pouring tea while the children played bat and ball in the meadow. Families who caravanned together, stayed together through the thick and thin of Britain's unpredictable weather and a life which could be as spartan as a prison camp.



The way we were: enjoying all mod cons, albeit in a rather Heath Robinson fashion, in this luxury 1949 trailer

Pictures show caravanners apple-cheeked, wearing sensible sweaters and grinning inanely into a distance that seemed to promise that there would be jam for tea every day, whatever the price of sterling on world markets and whether the Newbury bypass was built or not.

Now glossy press releases come from the Tourer Marketing Bureau, decorated with a classy logo. Touring is lifestyle and pictures are of sleek saloons on exotic mountains; tourers, or whatever people in not-the-caravans now are called, wear designer-label hiking gear and get ready to windsurf. Another piece of innocence lost in an increasingly avaricious world?

Maybe not, but if you get stuck behind one this weekend, whatever you do, mind your language and scream: "Get out of the way, you damned tourer."

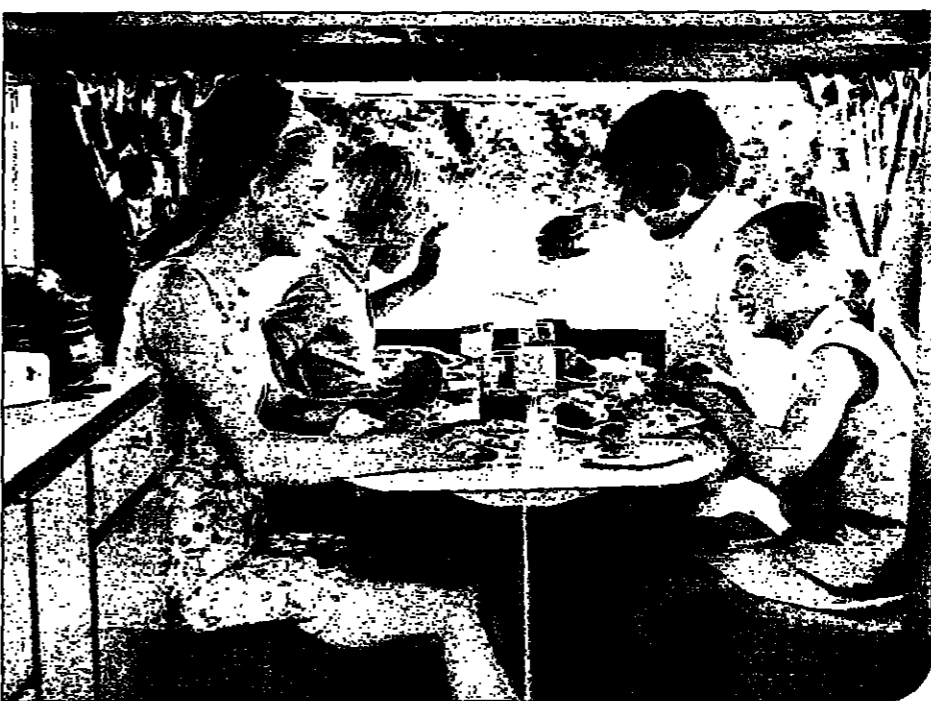
TAKE AN **ECCLES** CARAVAN — for an IDEAL HOLIDAY!



Bay windows and breakdowns: the prewar leisure experience in an Eccles caravan



Plump duvet, smart dressing gown and a lovely view of the site: fun, Fifties-style



Jam yesterday: a 1960s family tea amid the big hair, rosy cheeks and dodgy curtains

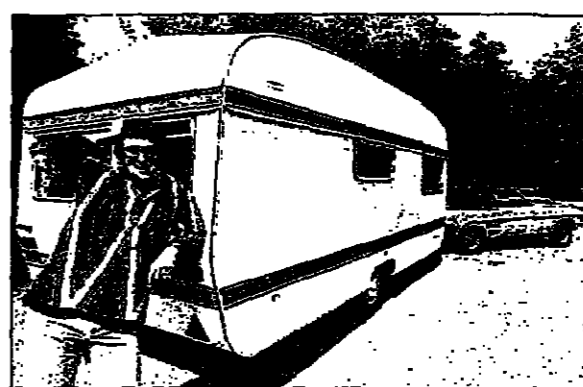
You can't pull in that shirt

THERE he is: a testimony to the taste in shirts that closed down a thousand high street stores and gave caravanning a name that ranks in popular culture alongside the anorak and prawn cocktail.

Who are caravanners? Who risks being reviled by neighbours, apparently abandoning common sense to hitch that huge box to the family hatchback? Kevin Eason asks.

See the reaction when you innocently tell people: "Just back from holiday. Took the caravan, actually. So easy, you know, just load it up and go."

You will only get to "carav..." before your questioner glazes over and discovers a compelling reason why he or she should be in the kitchen/dining room!



Loud clothes, Ford Capri: yes, he was a professional

dashing home to get another drink/file for divorce/put the baby in the oven.

I know. You see, my friend was a caravanner once: a rising young executive on the up-escalator of his career when this picture

appeared in a national newspaper 20 years ago. Things were never the same again but with treatment both the caravan — and the shirt — have thankfully been consigned to the dustbin of travelling history.

EVERY YEAR 500,000 CARS ARE STOLEN.

(Make sure you don't buy one.)

If you do, there's every chance you could lose your car with no compensation. That is if you didn't call the AA Used Car Data Check.

Have ready: Car registration number • 17 digit chassis number (VIN) • Credit card

(This service provides cover against financial losses of up to £10,000 (valid for 12 months) Details are available on request.)

For only £19.99 to members (£25.00 to non-members) we'll check the car's history and help you avoid a potential death trap or hefty loss.

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0800 234 999

AA Used Car Data Check

Ask for extension number 1008

9am-8pm Weekdays • 9am-5pm Weekends

SA WARNING

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SERVICE

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Sunroofs are on the way out, hints a motor industry keen to get us spending on the next big thing. But they may not have our best interests at heart

What's the con behind air-con?

If this sweltering, sticky old August reinforces the theory that global warming is really happening, something will also have to happen to car design beyond the steps already being taken to reduce fuel consumption and exhaust emissions. We may, for example, be seeing the end of the sunroof.

This has always been something of an oddity, although I would be sorry to see it disappear. True, in hot weather a sunroof lets through too much sun, which is why most of them now have blinds. But a sunroof can be cheering in gloomy weather and its tilt function remains the best way to change the air in the car without suffering the noise and wind caused by opening side windows.

But it sounds as if the car industry is trying to prepare us for

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

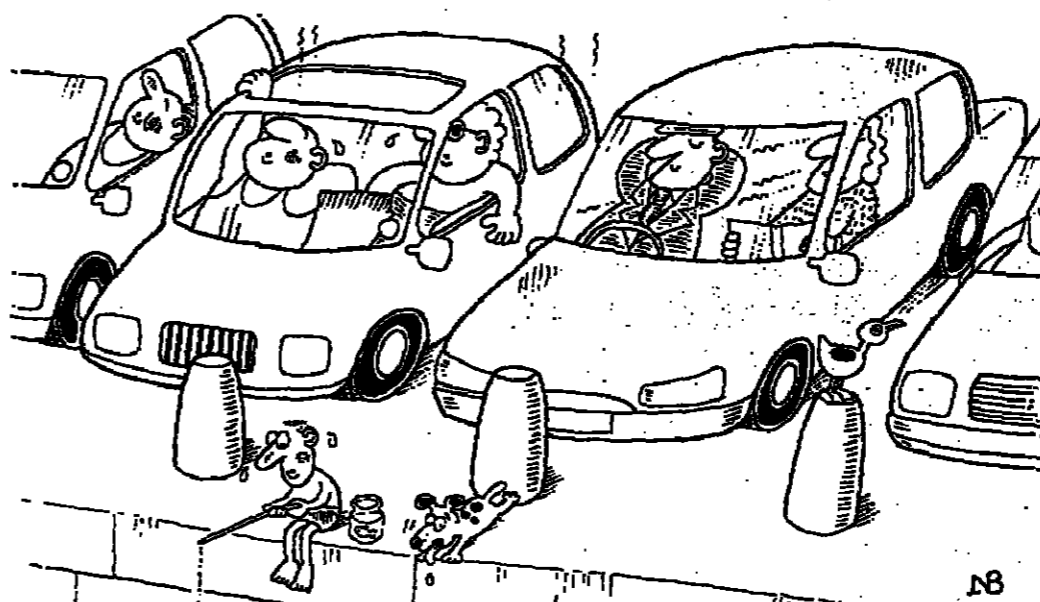
the end of the sunroof, to judge by a quote in *The Times* this week. Alan Pulham, of the Retail Motor Industry Federation, said: "Sunroofs are noisy, they leak. They are strange things that grew up in this country when the fleet driver wanted the maximum number of

visible extras so his car stood out in the street."

How every interesting. Even as we speak, I can think of at least one car commercial on television which offers a sunroof as part of the base price. A skim through the car magazines will reveal dozens of advertisements for cars which include the lure of a sunroof. None of these ads, in my experience, carries the slogan: "Get a sunroof - it's noisy and it leaks."

In fairness, Mr Pulham's comments need to be put in context. He was quoted in an article about air-conditioning in cars and he is undoubtedly right to imply that the means to produce cool air looks like being much more useful in the longer term than the means to let in more sunlight.

I have had at least a dozen cars with sunroofs and only one of



them leaked, a temporary problem caused by the drain on each side of the sunroof gutter becoming blocked. Noise? Not so much that one would be discomfited.

Clearly the industry wants us all to rush out and fit the latest fad, which is air-conditioning. I see that the table of the ten coolest cars in Britain, compiled by Lease Plan,

has only one that costs less than £18,000 (the Renault Megane Scenic at £12,995) and none that is British, unless you count the Vauxhall Omega.

So clearly British manufacturers have not yet taken on board the warnings of Suzanne Charlton and co, or else they take the view that trying to sell air-conditioning

to the British is much like selling ice-cream in Alaska: an exercise likely to attract scepticism. Still, the percentage of cars with air-con has almost doubled since 1990: almost half now have it.

There is a clear risk here that air-con will create the next great in-car social divide. Already drivers with air-con sit at traffic lights in

baking heat with their windows firmly closed, looking smug. They have invested from £400 to the best part of £2,000 in keeping cool, so good luck to them.

They will of course know the device has drawbacks. Because air-con is driven by the car's engine, it affects fuel efficiency and, to some extent, the car's performance, though as the technology develops, these downsides will be reduced or eliminated. And the cost? That will plummet.

It is already hard to tell exactly what air-con does cost. Indeed, the device seems as much to do with marketing as cooling, for already dealers give "special offer" prices that include air-con, so that its true cost is buried within the total cost of the car.

But I am all for air-conditioning in cars and believe it should be standard in them all. This development would have the side benefit of reducing the hype associated with selling cars. But we should remember that all devices, from sunroofs to air-con, have disadvantages that the marketing tends not to mention.

Or to put it another way: I once lived in an apartment in Washington DC that had air-conditioning. It was noisy and it leaked.

IN BRIEF

New Astra takes on the old Escort

■ SLEEKER and bigger, the Vauxhall Astra will be ready to make its debut in British showrooms next spring. Though the styling is already reminiscent of another new player, the Citroën Xsara, at least the Astra brings a more modern look to the Vauxhall range. The dart-like shape means better aerodynamics helping lead to what Vauxhall describes as "best ever" fuel consumption, with economy improved by 10 per cent.



Astra looks modern at last

There will be six petrol and two turbo-diesels to choose from, with more powerful Bosch anti-lock brakes plus a new safety package. A galvanised body means corrosion warranty has been extended to 12 years. The Astra has been one of Britain's favourite cars with 1.4 million sold since 1980 and the new one should give Ford's ageing Escort a run for its money.

Volvo's safe bumper cars



Eckerstein: no dummy

■ THIS CRASH-test dummy is Volvo vice-president Sven Eckerstein putting Volvo cars through the dogleg test. The Liekeberg amusement park in Gothenburg, Sweden, has bumper cars which look like classic Volvo PV60 and PV44 models, so Eckerstein went to test them for legendary Volvo safety.



■ A CRACKDOWN on tax dodgers has started. Clamping teams are patrolling London, and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency warns that offenders face big penalties: £68 to release the clamp, £155 impounding fee plus £12-a-day storage fees. Vehicles unclaimed after five weeks could be crushed.

The answer to city congestion might be here: just Swatch this space, says Kevin Eason

John Prescott can throw away his Jaguar keys and pioneer the city car that sets a precedent for the vehicles we could be driving next century.

The deputy Prime Minister this week launched his transport Green Paper aimed at reducing the congestion throttling towns and cities. The Government's solution is likely in part to ban cars from city centres or introduce road tolls to clear the streets.

But the tiny Smart is the first in a series of vehicles that will offer an alternative way of moving around cities.

Almost two feet shorter than a Mini, the Smart is set to revolutionise the way we think about motoring on short journeys.

Mr Prescott said a major contributor to congestion is four and five-seat cars that block cities while containing just one driver. The Smart is a tiny two-seater, with a 600cc petrol engine, which takes up the space of half a hatchback.

Smart's manufacturer, MCC, is a joint venture between the mould-breaking Swatch company and Mercedes-Benz. They will reveal the Smart at next month's Frankfurt Motor Show but these first pictures show that they have come up with a car which redefines the rules.

The three-cylinder engine is mounted transversely under the boot, tucked at a 48-degree angle to drive the back wheels. The driver gets a six-speed clutchless and sequential gearbox - a system that effectively allows a lever-push forward to go up the gears and back to go down again.

The engine's 55 brake horse power will be enough to propel a car that weighs just 680 kilos to 50mph in a creditable ten seconds while the top speed is electronically restricted to 80mph. No fuel economy figures yet, but engineers are working on a three-cylinder diesel that will return 40 miles to the gallon and more when driving in town.

Two ingredients should make Smart a saleable proposition, particularly at a time when the Government is threatening to use taxes to punish users of gas-guzzlers and drivers demanding city road space.

Smart goes on sale in eight countries next year at prices between £5,750 and £7,200, which means it will undercut even the current Mini and



Radically styled machine is shorter than a Mini, has an abstemious motor and a surprisingly spacious cabin

challenge the Fiat Cinquecento for attention.

But the car also offers astonishing versatility for city drivers, particularly those who spend a long time motoring alone. The passenger seat folds flat or can be removed completely, while cabin room is said to be better than a Volkswagen Polo. Body panels, meanwhile, come in five different colours and are interchangeable.

There is a removable roof -

and if you want to hitch up some electrical equipment, there is a wall socket. While exterior styling is radical, the interiors are eye-socking and will appeal to Twenty-somethings and drivers with a sense of fun... a little like Mr Prescott, who is known to enjoy the odd jest.

When Smart goes on sale here in 1999, he could cheer himself up by exchanging that Jaguar's meaty petrol bills for a frugal, fun Smart.

Daihatsu calling

■ For anyone who has recoiled from a doorstep double-glazing entrepreneur or stifled yawns when faced by a cold-calling roofer, the ultimate challenge is now at hand: the door-to-door car salesman, Vaughan Freeman writes.

Instead of shopping for a car at a showroom, Daihatsu plans to put its sales staff in your front room, office - or anywhere else you want to talk buying cars.

The idea does away with the traditional dealership showroom, replacing it with a team of consultants who carry car details in powerful laptop computers and who visit customers wherever they might be to arrange test drives, sort out finance and seal the deal.

Known as City Daihatsu, it is part of the giant Inchcape network of dealer groups, but unlike its sister outlets seems at first consideration to lack a few vital elements, like for

instance a showroom or any cars to put in it.

Now that Daihatsu has killed the showroom, potential customers, will instead be visited by Daihatsu consultants. Full details of the Daihatsu model range, colour schemes, engine details, specification and trim levels will all be kept on the consultant's laptop, together with details of financial packages. A test drive will be arranged and the car delivered to wherever the customer stipulates.

For servicing and minor repairs, the customer needs only to phone the Daihatsu freephone number, and the car will be taken away, dealt with and then returned.

Daihatsu spokesman Simon Small, says it's the best way: "The problem with city centre dealerships is that it takes time to find the right sort of dealership, overheads are high and the right premises are hard to find."

AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

● LONDON
A306 Hammersmith Bridge. Closed both ways to general traffic.
A406 Angel Edmonton. Major works at the A1010 Fore Street.
A237 Manor Road, Wallington, single alternate traffic at the junction with Melbourne Road.
A1209 Bethnal Green Road. Long-term roadworks between Vallance Road and Cambridge Heath Road.
A312 Faggs Road, Feltham. Carriageway reduced to one lane each way due to long term bridge maintenance at Faggs Bridge, north of Staines Road, between Barn and Spm. Richmond Park between Kingston Gate and Ham gate, closed for roadworks.
A2 Old Kent Road, New Cross. Closed restrictions at various times.

● SOUTH-EAST
A34 Berkshire. Contraflow and narrow lanes with 40mph limit between M4 junction 13 and Newbury.
A4 Padworth, Berkshire. Temporary lights at junction with A340.
M40 Buckinghamshire. Long-term roadworks with a contraflow between junctions 1a (M25) and 3 (Wycombe East).
A414 Hertfordshire. Roadworks on St Albans Road; Hamel Hampstead.
M2 Rochester, Kent. Roadworks with various lane closures.

M40 Oxfordshire. Resurfacing work between Watlington and Oxford. Drivers heading to junction 8 of the M40 from Oxford are advised to use the A40 and A418.
M25 Surrey. Restrictions and lane closures both ways between Reigate and A3.
A24 Frinton Bypass. Lane closures on Bedfordshire. Closed northbound between Quadangle and Long Furlong.

● SOUTH-WEST
A38 Old Badminton Bridge, Badminton. Major roadworks with lane closures on Badminton roundabout.
M5 Bristol. Contraflow across Avonmouth bridge with 50mph limit.
A432 Downend Road, Bristol. Temporary lights at junction with Croome Hill and Shrubbery Road.
A390 Cornwall. Lane restrictions in centre of Truro at the Trafalgar roundabout.
A417 Gloucestershire. Temporary lights during bridge work. A356 Crewkerne, North Street closed. Diversions and delays.

● MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA
A1 between Alconbury Hill and Alwalton, Cambridgeshire. Construction work with lane

closures, contraflow and 50mph limit.
A134 Stradsett, Norfolk. Roadworks at A122 junction.
A1074 Norwich. Narrow lanes eastbound between Larkman Lane and Sweet Briar Road roundabout.
A52 Beeston, Nottinghamshire. Major roadworks on Derby Road. Expect delays between Sherwin Arms and Priory roundabouts.
A6 Leicestershire. Roadworks between M1 junction 24 and Sawley Island.
M64 Shropshire. Contraflow with westbound traffic on the shoulder. Eastbound on lanes 1 and 2 of westbound carriageway.

A50 Stoke on Trent: major roadworks in the Meir area at junction with A520.
M6 Staffordshire. Contraflow between junctions 14 and 15.
A1101 Mildenhall, Suffolk. Closed at Kingsway between Lark Road and Kings Street.

● NORTH
A579 Warrington. Winwick link road closed.
M6 Cumbria. One lane closed both ways between junctions 36 and 37.
A58 Westthorpe, Greater Manchester. Closed southbound on Felling Road between A6 and Cricketers Way, and between the Chequerbent Roundabout and Wade Lane.
A19 between Thornaby-on-Tees and Billingham, Cleveland. Major roadworks with two lanes each way closed between junctions 36 and 37.
M1 South Yorkshire. Long-term roadworks with 30mph limit at junction 47. Delays on M1, M621 and A653.
A134 Tyne and Wear. Contraflow on Felling bypass.
M1 West Yorkshire. Junctions 43 to 42 Stourton to Lofthouse junction. Contraflow and 50mph limit.
M62 West Yorkshire. Contraflow and 50mph limit. Junctions 28 to 29.

● WALES
A484 Carmarthenshire. Major roadworks on Francis Well in Tennyrd.
A449 Monmouthshire. Long delays between Usk junction and the M4 junction 24 at Newport.
A472 Torfaen. Contraflow at Pontypool.
A485 Carmarthenshire. Temporary lights at Duan Villa, Llanvyngher.

● SCOTLAND
M9 Edinburgh. Long-term roadworks and restrictions on Newbridge roundabout.
A720 Edinburgh city bypass. Contraflow between Lothianburn and Dregghorn. On and off-ramps at Dregghorn roundabout.
M90 Fife. Bridge, Perth and Kinnaird. Contraflow.

MAJOR ROADWORKS



AUTOFAK by David Long and Les Evans

THE PUMA IS THE FIRST TO BE DESIGNED ENTIRELY ON COMPUTER...

ROB WALKER'S DOG ONCE SHAMMED THROUGH A WINDOW TO ESCAPE ONE OF THE FORMER LE MANUS DRIVERS MOTORIZED MODEL CARS.

SIR JACK BRASHAM, UNKNOWNLY, WON A FORMULA ONE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IN A CAR BEARING HIS OWN NAME...

A MINI MARCOS WAS THE ONLY BRITISH CAR TO FINISH THE 1966 LE MANUS BUT WAS STOLEN SOON AFTERWARDS.

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MOTORCYCLE MONTH IN THE TIMES: BIKING BARRISTERS AND A SOLICITOR ON SUSPENSION

Purley bathtime creates shock for prize BMW cruiser

A retired London solicitor's inspiration led to a radical new bike design, says John Naish

Our prize BMW R1200 C cruiser motorcycle boasts an eclectic range of design inspirations, but none is stranger than a bathtub in the south London suburb of Purley.

A good soak and a rubber duck have been renowned since Archimedes' time for their capacity to prompt creative thought, and it was amid the soap and the steam that solicitor Hugh Nicol hit on the idea that was to become a design highlight on the new BMW Cruiser: its innovative — and highly effective — Telelever front suspension system.

That Britain is responsible for the thinking behind this smart piece of German engineering, which succeeds in separating the braking and shock-absorbing functions of conventional systems, thereby banishing the usual problem of front-end dive under hard stopping, which can throw a bike off line if the rider hits the anchors in the middle of a corner.



Hugh Nicol with the BMW he got for his suspension idea, above

But the bathtub was not the only unlikely player in Nicol's breakthrough — the other was his son's Japanese moped, Nichol, an inventive dabbler in things mechanical, realised the need for a new front-end design for motorcycles when he took his son's new 50cc runabout for a test-drive.

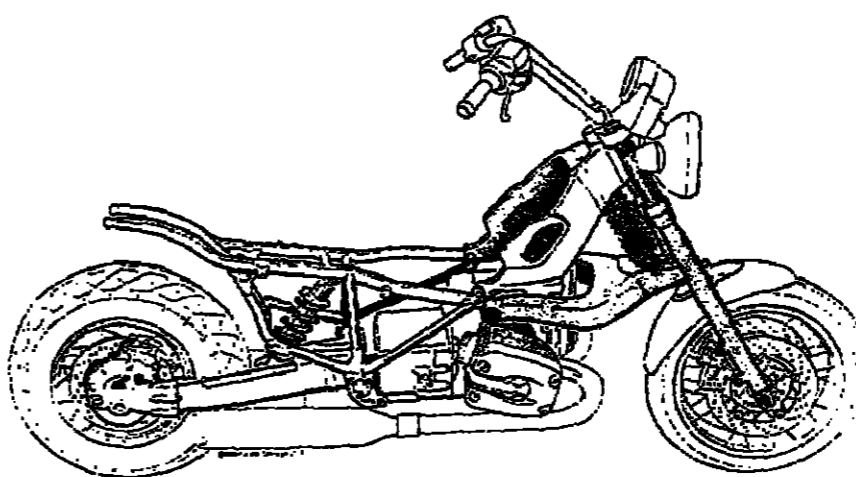
"I thought it was dreadful," he recalls. "The conventional forks were horribly flimsy and I was alarmed to see them bend when I hit the brakes. The little bike also

understeered badly going around corners and I thought I might end up having an accident if I went any faster."

Then followed a long period of hard thinking, mostly while commuting by rail between Purley and Nicol's workplace at Taylor Woodrow. "For ages I thought about basing the solution on the wishbone suspension used on cars, but in the end, the solution was so obvious I could not see it. I was sitting in the bath when it came to

me — I had to ask my wife to bring in a pencil and paper."

While Archimedes' original bath-time eureka revealed that a body's weight immersed in water equalled the weight of the displaced liquid, Nicol's was rather more complex. It combined conventional-looking telescopic forks with an arm that links the fork bridge to the frame. This effectively shifts the braking forces away from the shock absorbers, and transmits them instead into the engine block.



bolted easily on to the front of their boxer engines.

The timing was a happy coincidence: the German company had been searching for a replacement for its conventional front-fork design, which was proving less and less able to cope with modern engine power and tyre technology.

The new system was fitted on to BMW's R1100 RS, the first of the new generation of completely new boxers, as part of a revamp that also featured a new engine and rear swinging arm.

Nicol, now 65 and retired, is shy about his financial arrangement with the Bavarian manufacturer, but extremely proud to show off the R1100 RS it presented to him. It was the second off the production line to be delivered — the first went to King Hussein of Jordan on the same day. However, says Nicol, the king was not present at his evening birthday party. "So I got mine on the road first."

The system has now become a staple of boxers, but it is usually tucked away from view. For the Cruiser, BMW is showing it off as a proudly polished detail — an icon of forward-thinking Teutonic design. So far, Nicol reports, he has not been beset by German bikers demanding to turn his bath into a shrine. But perhaps, now BMW is being so upfront about what its got up front, that could change.

Final prize-draw token, today

Helen Mound meets the low-flying legal eagles who leave their midlife crises in a cloud of burnt rubber

You might not expect to see such professional people tearing up the tarmac at terrifying speeds; indeed you would normally expect to see them in silk, rather than leather, but the lure of the motorcycle is such that devotees lurk in the most unlikely social niches.

Members of the Motor Cycle and Car Folly — founded for the "professional classes with more money than sense" — are part of a growing trend for high-achieving professionals to turn to two wheels for their excitement.

While some modern-day born-again bikers claim they have moved to two wheels to escape the misery of traffic jams, others candidly admit that throwing a leg over a bike with a powerplant as big as a car engine, and often more powerful, is more to do with using fun and danger to stave off their mid-life crises.

Whatever the reason, today's biker is just as likely to wear a suit and work in the City as they are to be an oily, leather-clad teenager.

Nearly 75 per cent of people who took their motorcycle test last year were over the age of 30 and in the past 18 months, sales of high-powered motorbikes increased more than 60 per cent, the majority sold to professionals who can write cheques for £10,000 without breaking the bank.

In the past two years, the Motor Cycle and Car Folly has seen its membership double. Founded by Mark Edinburgh and Martin Reybould, the club's original bikering lawyers, there has been no need to search out new recruits with 700 now signed up.

"We started with just a handful of friends six years ago, as a bit of a laugh and it's just gone from strength to strength without us even trying," says Mark, who works in London.

Originally aimed at solicitors and barristers, it now accepts any breed of well-to-do biker. "We'll let any old riff-raff in now, bankers, doctors, accountants, surgeons," says Mark. "It's not a cheap pastime. It is very easy to spend around £2,000 on one of our events and we have one every month in the summer. And the bikes alone cost between £10,000 and £20,000."

So, the riff-raff have managed to get in — but what about that other growing breed of bikers — women? Mark thinks for a while, to formulate a suitably legalistic and objective answer: "We have a few women — but we're thinking of banning them." Ah, so refreshingly and wholly politically incorrect — but not without logic in this slightly eccentric company of bikers.

Co-founder Martin recently suffered a collision with "a severely out-of-control lady rider," says Mark. "It was our



Motor Cycle and Car Folly members spend weekends tearing around tracks on flash bikes like Ducatis and Bimotas costing up to £20,000. Women may be banned from the club after a recent accident

Rich men blow their wigs off

first major collision in six years and now Martin thinks we should ban them."

Weekend events can involve taking over a racetrack and a hotel... and generally having a jolly good time. Mark explains: "It's a social thing. We hire Brands Hatch or another circuit like Donington or Oulton Park. That costs about £15,000. We all meet for dinner the night before, stay in a hotel, and the next day we thrash round the track."

Numbers are restricted by track regulations and can vary from 20 at Goodwood to 60 at Brands Hatch.

The top three superbikes favoured by Folly members and the new biker-gentry are the £8,000 Suzuki TL1000S, the £10,000 Triumph T595 (with a claimed top

speed of 160mph and 0 to 60mph in three seconds) and the £13,000 Ducati 916 (currently enjoying high demand in Hollywood). Other popular marques with enthusiasts include BMW and Moto Guzzi.

Mark's collection is more eclectic, including two Ducati-powered Bimota sportsbikes and a Ducati 900 Isle of Man TT replica.

"I got my first bike much against my father's wishes but I said, 'Dad, I'm 40 years old and I think it's time I made my own decisions.' That was a Honda 125, then I moved on to the much more powerful Ducati."

Martin had a more traditional introduction to biker. Like many of the breed of reborn bikers, he started when he was a teenager before the

pressures of adulthood and a family forced him to opt for a car. Now in his 50s with a wife and four children, he has returned to bikes for a bit of fun, a way of rekindling a little of the lost excitement of youth. His current two-wheeled beast is a Honda RC30.

Ask Mark what he'd recommend to a middle-aged professional who wants a superbike and he suggests a Honda Fireblade. "It's a fabulous bike. Reliable, fast, stunning-looking." This is not a surprising choice, given Honda claims that 10 per cent of customers for its 900cc Fireblade are aged over 50.

In spite of the Folly members' gung-ho enthusiasm, some of the growing trend for

motorcycle ownership is showing in the accident as well as the sales figures. The Department of Transport claims that deaths among 30 to 50-year-old bikers have risen by more than half in the past decade. But dealers claim that motorbike sales to the under-30s have dropped just as dramatically because of rising insurance costs.

Mark is quick to point out that his hobby is a relatively safe one: "We've only ever had one injury in six years at the racetracks and that was when an orthopaedic surgeon fell off and broke his thumb. Luckily his qualifications meant he could tell the ambulance crew exactly what needed doing."

The Motor Cycle and Car Folly: 0118 988 7242.

MOTORBIKE NEWS IN BRIEF

Peak-time for thieves

THEFT is costing motorcycle dealers £90 million a year in lost spares trading. Criminals are stealing bikes and scooters to strip them and sell the components as spares at a huge profit. This is the peak time of year for crime, when bike theft can jump by as much as 30 per cent.

Even though bikers are now spending £10 million a year on security equipment, the motorcycle industry is warning them to take

extra precautions to ensure their machines stay where they were parked.

Equipment sold under the Sold Secure scheme has the industry's approval on quality of manufacture and effectiveness, and can bring the bonus of a reduction in insurance premiums. The scheme's highest standard, Attack 5, brings the best reductions, which could be worth a saving of 12.5 per cent on an £800 insurance premium.

Premium's 24-hour line

A 24-HOUR insurance service for bikers has been launched by Premium Search. The telephone lines are not only open for emergencies but also to provide quotes for bikers wanting to discover whether they can find cheaper rates. The company acted after receiving 300 calls a week from bikers looking for insurance.

Premium Search insurance: 0990 134 920.

BORN-AGAIN bikers are being warned to seek training before returning to two wheels.

The Motorcycle Rider Training Association says weekend bikers could be surprised by the power of their machines. More than 223,000 motorcycles sold last year were 500cc or over. Kevin Kelly, the association's director, says: "Mature bikers, after being trapped in their company cars all week, might not possess skills to get the most out of their powerful machines."

MRTA: 0171-307 3409.

Show time at the NEC

FOR A LOOK at the latest in motorcycle and scooter fashions, the International Motor Cycle Show opens from November 7 to 16 at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham. First day is preview day, with admission prices at £25, while tickets for the rest of the show are £12 for adults and £5 for children aged 11 to 16 and pensioners. Advance bookings bring a £2 reduction in adult ticket prices.

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SPECIAL ROADTEST REPORT: NEW CONTENDERS FROM ACROSS THE ATLANTIC

Chrysler heralds a small American invasion

For many years, most American cars have been regarded as oversized, oversteered and over there — the best place for them. But things are changing: Chrysler has plans.

Its Jeep range has established a substantial position in the UK 4x4 market, its conservative Neon has been successful with company buyers, and recently its Voyager MPV went on sale here, offering plenty of mobile real-estate.

And there is the V10 Chrysler Viper. At over £60,000 for the basic model, it may not have become the most common sight on the block but its image has done wonders for the Chrysler marque in Europe.

Now there are signs that Chrysler is considering bringing more of its wares to the UK. It will not be an invasion, but a reconnaissance in force. The major element of this may come in 2001, with a new version of the current mid-size Stratus, although before that, Chrysler will have the opportunity to bring a big luxury saloon here which is due to be unveiled at next January's Detroit show.

In recent years, Chrysler has hauled itself back from the financial abyss to become successful once more. Richard Mackay, managing director of Chrysler Jeep UK, believes there is a clear trend towards increased American car sales in the UK.

"We sell successfully to people who want something different, so if we do bring in the new Stratus, that will present added opportunity."

However, Mackay says there is one problem about bringing Chrysler's US cars to the UK: their headlamps. If the company

Stuart Birch asks if the New Yorker and Stratus can cut it in the UK's tough market

designs alternative, right-hand-drive headlights, it would be a big step towards importing more models. That may seem a minor technology hurdle but Mackay says it is a major element of type approval — the official go-ahead for a car to go on sale in Britain.

But with American cars becoming increasingly acceptable internationally, there seems little doubt that more will go on sale here. I tried two Chryslers: the big, luxurious New Yorker and the smaller, but very attractive Stratus Cabriolet LX.

The New Yorker is exported mainly to continental Europe, but is available on special order in Britain for about £33,500. Its 3.5-litre 24-valve V6 engine produces 211bhp and has a nice growl, giving a top speed the high side of 125mph and 0-60mph in about ten seconds.

Handling is competent if not exactly sporty, the ride smooth but not soggy, and the car has four-wheel, anti-lock disc brakes. Equipment is lavish and includes soft leather trim. At more than 17ft long, the handsome New Yorker is a big car. The new 300M is likely to be slightly smaller.

More appropriate for UK roads is the Stratus. It is a pity the current model is not available with right-hand drive



Chrysler may sell a new version of the mid-size Stratus in the UK. Current model is a fine car in cabriolet form — and a genuine four-seater



Richard Mackay, Chrysler's head of Jeep imports, sees increased American sales here

because it is a fine car in cabriolet form — and a genuine four-seater. Mackay expects that if it were sold here it would probably cost about £24,000. "Maybe it would have been up against the Audi Cabriolet and BMW 3-series

convertible but with its interior space, overall length, distinctive looks and full equipment — power hood, air conditioning, leather upholstery — it could have been in a class of its own."

I found it a delight to drive on hot and sunny August days. The big power roof folds quickly after the release of two catches and has a smart cover when lowered. With the windows raised there is little buffeting at 70mph and the car proved quiet and relaxing.

Its 160mph, 2.5-litre V6 engine is smooth with plenty of torque, and allied to a four-speed automatic gearbox gets the car to 60mph in about 11 seconds. The transmission also has a clutchless "manual mode" called Autostick, similar to the Tiptronic system used by Porsche and Audi, and is superbly easy to use.

The Stratus's ride is good. It is no sports car but handling is surprisingly sharp and nimble. Body stiffness is acceptable, but a shade flexible over poorly surfaced roads.

Although there is plenty of room for four people, boot space is absurdly limited. Nor is Chrysler's quality in the Audi/BMW class — the doors close with a clang not a clunk.

Overall, I thought the good-looking Stratus Cabriolet showed great promise. If the new version (there will be a saloon, too) is even better, Chrysler's designers should give very careful consideration to making it UK compatible.

STRATUS

Price: Not for sale in Britain though price would translate at about £24,000 here, comparable with a BMW 1.8 convertible or Audi 1.8 Cabriolet.

Engine: 2.5-litre, 160bhp V6.

Performance: 0 to 60mph in about 11 seconds, top speed 116mph.

Fuel consumption: average is around the mid-20 to the gallon.

Equipment: Four-wheel anti-lock disc brakes, twin airbags, automatic gearbox plus manual shift alternative, air conditioning, leather upholstery, powered windows, cruise control, powered driving seat.

AA cuts out the horrible haggle

Britain's biggest motoring organisation is taking on car dealers in order to save its members having to haggle over prices — a process many buyers hate, writes Rupert Saunders.

From this week, AA members will be able to select and order a new car by telephone without ever visiting a showroom or facing a salesman on the lookout for a quick commission.

The scheme, called AA Freeway, is linked to a low-rate finance package operated by NWS Bank, a subsidiary of the Bank of Scotland. Car buyers have to take out a plan similar to Ford Options, Vauxhall Choices or Rover Select, which ties them into a low-cost, three-year loan with an option to buy or trade the car in at the end of the term.

Interest rates on Freeway are among the lowest on the market, around 9.8 per cent APR against an average 13 to 14 per cent, but cars are bought at list price. It might still be cheaper to buy from a dealer if you are prepared to haggle and can secure a discount.

It is also possible to part exchange your existing car using Freeway. Sales advisors will give you a valuation over the telephone, subject to an inspection, at the time your new car is delivered.

The move into new car sales comes six months after AA Motor Finance launched a discount scheme for members on used cars. Holders of the AA credit card are able to redeem points against the price of ex-company cars ordered from Cowie Interleasing. The points are worth £5 for every £100 spent on the card, up to a maximum of £1,000.

AA Motor Finance is also set to cut its hire-purchase rates to 9.9 per cent APR on loans of more than £10,000 to members, making it the cheapest in the market. High street car dealers typically charge between 13 and 18 per cent for hire purchase with higher rates for used cars.

Rebecca Hadley, AA Motor Finance's spokeswoman, says: "Some members will still want to see and touch the cars."

FORECOURT

AUCTION houses and dealers have traditionally been the main suppliers for second-hand car buyers, who outnumber customers for new models by more than three to one. Now new technology is emerging to shake up the age-old methods of buying used cars, says CAP Black Book.

Andrew Wilkinson at CAP says: "Not so long ago the lion's share of trade was done at auctions where real people turned up to bid real money for real cars they could look at, sit in and feel."

"Now computer sales systems and electronic auctions are on the march. Increasingly sophisticated fax and modem links allow manufacturers to offer dealers ex-manufacturer cars via 'virtual' showroom facilities, and lease companies can also now offer their cars via fax links."

One development, says Wilkinson, involves "virtual" auctions: at which dealers can browse, from the comfort of their own showroom, a list of

nearly-new cars detailed on their computer screens, and bid for them. While this works well for six-month-old cars with fewer than 10,000 miles on the clock, motorists looking for older cars and who like to kick tyres on the forecourt will be able to do so for quite a few years yet.

Wilkinson adds: "Trading older, higher mileage cars is a sector which many are convinced will always benefit from a 'hands-on' approach, where the buyer gets a first-hand look at the vehicle before writing out the cheque. Dealers who are able to make money trading via fax, modem and the Internet, will do so."

"Those who prefer 'real' auctions will go to them, and the versatile few will do both. The likelihood is that the new ways will flourish side by side with the old."

Neon: flash as standard

Alan Copps on a model that takes other makers' optional extras for granted

ROAD TEST

ROAD TEST

The first thing to establish about the Chrysler Neon is what sort of car it is. It looks like a small car, like the Mondeo, Vectra and Peugeot 406. Yet in price it's more comparable to an Escort or an Astra.

In fact it falls between the two classes of car and sells on its price and American levels of standard equipment. As a way of bringing the Chrysler name back to the European saloon scene, it has been a success, but as a driving experience it still falls short of the best European offerings.

It's one of those cars that will prove mighty attractive to the buyer who wants something a bit different to the norm. Its looks are not the most graceful on the road but they are distinctive, and the LX model, particularly, comes with an impressive list of equipment known as the "four A's": airbags for driver and passenger, anti-lock brakes, air-conditioning and automatic transmission for no extra charge.

For £13,795, all this standard equipment has had an impact on the market since it first arrived here last year, forcing other manufacturers to rethink their offerings — and Chrysler deserves credit for that.

After all, air-conditioning is rapidly becoming a must-have for the motorist who wants his new car to retain a decent resale value, and anti-



Chrysler's Neon will prove attractive to buyers who want something a bit different

lock brakes are such a compelling safety feature and so common now that I am constantly surprised at the number of manufacturers who quote them as an option rather than as standard equipment.

But perhaps, in the middle of a sweltering August at least, the most notable of these two extras is the air-conditioning. You can tell it is an American unit because it is instantly effective and very simply controlled. With global warming

apparently gathering pace, any driver who has experienced the joys of an air-conditioned car would be reluctant to get back into one without. But there is a downside, and one particularly hot day with the unit working full blast, the combined effects of air-conditioning and automatic transmission reduced the range of its nine-gallon tank to barely 200 miles.

Nevertheless it was a comfortable 200 miles. The automatic is a steady and

predictable unit and the 2-litre engine with 131bhp handled a mixed bag of motorway and A-roads without a hiccup. The car's interior is simply but practically finished and a tilt-adjustable steering wheel makes it easy to find a relaxed driving position. It boasts a useful amount of boot space.

Chrysler has also paid a lot of attention to safety and security. The way the car automatically immobilises itself if left unattended for more than 45 seconds may niggly at first, but once the simple routine of pressing the "unlock" key before turning the ignition becomes a habit, it's a minor price to pay for security from theft.

Where the car doesn't match its larger rivals is in handling and refinement. Compared to a Peugeot 406 it simply can't boast the same agility and driving pleasure. Compared to the calm whirr of a Mondeo, the engine is busy and noisy, and compared to either the ride is not of the same order. But compare it on grounds of cost to the smaller rivals and it is an impressively safe and spacious package.

CHRYSLER NEON LX

Price: £13,795 on the road.
Engine: Four-cylinder, 16-valve 2-litre producing 131bhp at 5,850rpm.
Transmission: Five-speed manual or three-speed automatic at no extra cost.
Performance: (figures for model with automatic box) 0-60mph in 8.8 seconds; top speed 121mph.
Economy: (auto only; figures from manufacturer) urban, 24.1 miles to the gallon; out of town, 42.8mpg; average overall, 33.2mpg.
Equipment: Twin airbags, anti-lock brakes, air-conditioning, power steering, electric front windows, adjustable and folding mirrors, remote central locking, digital stereo radio and cassette.

SPARE PARTS

ONE in three used cars has a hidden history, according to HPI Equifax, the vehicle information company. It checked 1.5 million vehicles from March to June to discover thousands that could have been stolen, were shoddily repaired wrecks, or the subject of outstanding finance. As many as 100 stolen vehicles are sold daily, says HPI, and these could be taken from the new owner if traced by police. An HPI check before buying — telephone 01722-42422 — costs £28.50.

MERCEDES has launched a used-car scheme that ensures a check on all components and service history, includes a minimum year's warranty, a year's roadside assistance plus a mileage and history check.

FORD prices are up 1.2 per cent as the company switches to advertising on the road prices. But the nation's biggest car retailer is not changing sticker prices on the Ka, Fiesta and Escort Focus models, new Puma coupe, pre-August Mondeo and the Mondeo Focus. Probe or Explorer. A three-door Fiesta 1.25LX is now £140 more expensive at £10,085, a five-door Mondeo 1.8LX up £215 at £15,090 and the Scorpio Ultima at £24,665, up £300. Ford drivers can book Extra Cover, extending warranty by up to two years. Extra Cover now gets accident assistance with RAC cover.

NISSAN's Almera range gets a new cut-price model, the Muzic, which is in showrooms at £9,995 on the road. A three-door hatchback, the car has a 1.4-litre engine, electric door mirrors and stereo with remote controls. Warranty is three years or 60,000 miles, plus a year's RAC cover.

LONG awaited and now here is BMW's Z3 roadster, but with the 192bhp straight-six 2.8-litre engine which gives up performance for a 0 to 62mph time of 7.1 seconds and top speed of 135mph. Price is £28,115 — but book now because the waiting list grows ever longer.

USED CAR BRIEF



RENAULT LAGUNA
The Laguna succeeded the Renault 21 and was launched as a five-door hatchback here in 1994. The estate arrived a year later and the extensive engine range includes 1.8, two and 2.4-litre 16-valve petrol engines as well as 2.2-litre diesel and 3-litre V6 petrol. The front-wheel-drive saloons are a favourite with company car drivers faced with the Ford Mondeo or Vauxhall Vectra alternatives.

GOOD NEWS
Is that the Laguna represents a lot of second-hand car for the money largely because so many have flooded onto the used market from company fleets. With supply overwhelming demand, prices have, as the trade says "gone soft" which makes it a buyer's market.

LOOK FOR
estates which are among the most spacious and make for practical and hard working load carriers. French carmakers have long set the pace for sophisticated and effective diesel engines and the 2.2-litre Laguna diesel engine is no exception. The 3.0 litre V6 petrol is hugely smooth and powerful.

SAFETY
The Laguna moved on from its Renault 21 predecessor which was rated average by the Department of Transport alongside the Toyota Corolla and Nissan Primera. The Laguna enhances safety with airbags and anti-lock brakes.

REPLACEMENT PARTS
(Prices supplied by Desamix 01932 628223) Clutch assembly £160; full exhaust £280; catalytic converter £315; front brake pads (side set) £44; rear damper £55; alternator £234; starter motor £115; radiator £145.

OVERALL
Arrived at the demanding fleet car market means even entry level Renault Lagunas enjoy remote central locking, engine immobiliser, tinted glass and electric front windows. Ranging from V6 3.0 adds air-conditioning, cruise control and compact disc player. A lot of the car for the money as French flair meets commonsense.

BAD NEWS
Is that the V6, though smooth and fast (over 130mph top speed) returns fuel consumption figures in the low 20mpg range. The diesel, by contrast, will return better than 40mpg. Badging (RN, RT, RSE) is confusing though RSE is top of the heap offering air-conditioning and leather seats.

AVOID
1.8-litre Lagunas which are sluggish and have to work hard. Ex-company cars should have benefited from regular services but beware examples with excessively high mileages or which have been neglected, leading to worn-out brake discs and soggy suspension.

INSURANCE
Cover from AA Insurance (0800 444777) on a 1994 1.8RN costs a 25-year-old professional, male or female, living in Wiltshire, with full no claims £246 a year fully comprehensive. A 22-year-old male, with one year no claims in south London pays £849, a similar woman £563.

PRICES
Expect to pay £7,300 for a 1994 1.8RN, £9,000 for a 1994 1.8RN M-reg 2.0RT, £11,000 for a 1995 M-reg 2.0RT diesel, £10,250 for a 1995 M-reg 2.0RT automatic, £13,750 for a 1996 M-reg 2.0RT estate, £14,500 for a 1995 M-reg 3.0 V6 and £16,500 for a 1995 M-reg 3.0 V6 Baccara.

CAR 97

Is nowhere safe to put baby in the car?

Front airbags and short rear seatbelts pose parents a dilemma, says Alan Copps

Twin airbags is one of the current buzz-phrases on many manufacturers' specification lists. But it's a safety feature that brings its own problems. The warning was plastered in large letters in the front of the Chrysler Neon I drove recently: Don't use a rear-facing childseat in the front passenger seat because it is fitted with an airbag.

The warning was introduced after American investigations showed that the force of an exploding airbag could smash a childseat against the back of the front seat, killing or injuring its occupant, a risk not shared by a larger adult occupant who will be held further back in the seat by the belt. It is an increasingly familiar message for anyone buying or renting a modern car but while it may add to safety it also adds to the confusion over the proper use of child seats and seatbelts.

Already a cross-party group of MEPs, led by Alan Donnelly, member for Tyne and Wear, is campaigning for clearer laws on the subject and mandatory standard fittings in all new cars. Their campaign is supported by both the RAC and the FIA, the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile. In the meantime they want a clearer standard warning symbol against using a rear-facing seat when a passenger airbag is fitted. But that is only half the problem.

My wife, Anna, who is not a reckless sort of person, prefers to drive a car without a passenger airbag because she wants to have our five-month-old daughter, Imogen, within her line of view. "I want the



Babies in the back may be safe from exploding airbags, but what if you can't secure their childseats?

baby in the front so that I can see if she starts choking or

something else goes wrong. If I'm driving alone with her in a car with an airbag, I'd rather take the risk and put her in the front than have her in the back where I can't get to her so quickly," she says. Most of her friends with small children take a similar view.

But going for a drive together with Imogen in her perfectly standard rear-facing seat, I decided to obey the instruction and put her in the back. No matter how hard I tried the rear seatbelt simply didn't stretch round the seat.

At first I thought I must have been doing something wrong, perhaps the belt was snagged on something, but after careful checking I established beyond doubt it was

simply too short. So I asked Chrysler, what should I do?

I was not the first to ask and the response was rapid: I was recommended to a company called Quickfit Safety Belts Services, a London-based specialist, who would replace the webbing with a longer length and refit it with the original fittings for £45 plus VAT.

If you can't get the car in time, then they will mail you the webbing for £25 plus VAT and you can then get it fitted locally.

It all sounded straightforward until I began asking Bill Quick, managing director of the company, which has been seatbelt specialists since 1962, how many such fittings he sold. "Each week we get at least 20 inquiries, sometimes



Reconstruction: 270 children were killed in cars last year

twice as many, but even in the best week we never fit more than a dozen. We have to warn customers with new cars that they should check the terms of their warranty and insurance before changing the specifica-

tion of the car. The fact is that by replacing the original-framing webbing we are changing the specification. We think that it's only fair to warn people but unfortunately it puts them off buying."

HOW THE LAW ON SEAT BELTS AFFECTS YOU		
AGE	RESTRAINTS	RESPONSIBILITY
Under 3 years	Appropriate restraints (for weight and size which can be correctly fitted) must be worn in front and rear seats	Driver
3 to 11	Appropriate restraints (as above) to be worn if available. If not, adult seatbelt must be worn in front and rear seats if fitted	Driver
12 or younger child 1.5m (approx 5ft) or more tall	Adult safety belt to be worn where available	Driver
Adults	Safety belts must be worn where available	Driver and passenger

shorter webbing to increase safety so there is less for a reel to take up in a crash, that means it doesn't stretch round a childseat. The golden rule with child seats is that you must try them out in the car before buying. Any good retailer should let you do this," said a spokeswoman.

With the holiday season in full swing, the Retail Motor Industry Federation issued its own warning last week: more than 50 per cent of parents admit not using childseats or seatbelts, while 70 per cent of all childseats are incorrectly fitted. Only if parents adopt a responsible attitude to child safety can the toll of child casualties be reduced.

In 1996, 270 children were killed and 6,719 injured on Britain's roads: if proper restraints had been used, three out of four deaths and 90 per cent of those injuries could have been avoided. Together with local authorities, the RMI runs Child in Car Care Centres at dealerships throughout the country, offering free advice on selection, fitting and suitability of child seats and restraints.

The RMI's spokesman sympathised with mothers who want to maintain eye contact with their children, and recommended that they should consult dealers who would be able to disarm the front airbag or to fit longer seatbelt webbing without any effect on warranty. "Each manufacturer and each model is going to be different. It's difficult to offer advice across the board," he said.

There is one brilliantly clever solution to the whole conundrum: if you buy a Mercedes-Benz SLK or CLK you get a "clever" front seat that senses its load and switches off the airbag if it finds a childseat is in place. But it's a very expensive way round a problem that is common to cars of all makes and prices.

● **Information:** Quickfit
Safety Belt Services, 0181-206
0101
RMI Motorline is on 0345
585 350.
The RAC's Child Seat
Safety leaflet is available by
sending an SAE to Child
Seat safety, RAC, PO Box
200, Walsall WS5 4QZ.

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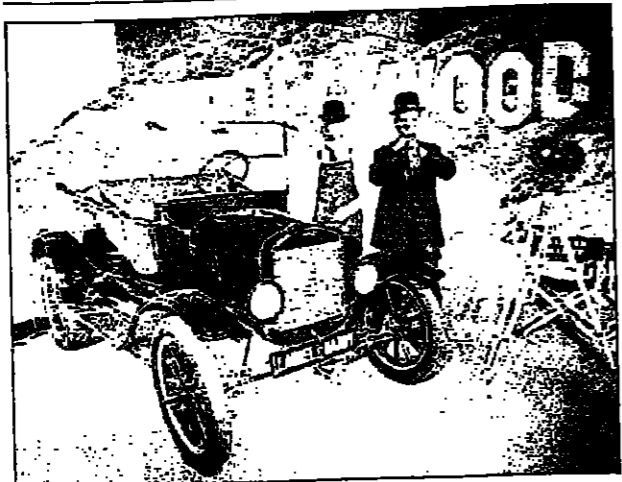
AUCTION of PERSONALISED REGISTRATIONS

at The Civic Centre, Newcastle-upon-Tyne on 1st & 2nd September 1997

911 A	111 BEN	80 CW	111 EC	21 PW	1 HET	14 W	123 L	70 MR	17 QM	17 RB	5HA 110	13 UD
16 A	18K BK	11 CX	17 ED	10 FX	14 HF	18 JV	24 LA	54 MS	15 QD	35 RC	5HE 11A	7 UD
21 BA	121 BA	11 GHT	8E SE	9 JT	4 HO	12 KA	13 CB	13 CB	13 CB	13 CB	13 CB	13 CB
23 AB	18N BK	41 MEO	RE 330E	50 30	21 HX	KAR 11B	1 LSS	1 MSA	ONE 2B	14 UD	111 SK	51 UK
ABT 1	21 BH	411 LY	16 PF	989 B	555 WH	KAR 11B	61 LT	1 MSA	6 OD	1 BDM	13 UD	13 UD
13 AS	75 BI	411 LOM	27 BS	61 NY	989 B	KAS 11M	LUV 2B	123 MSA	COB 1E	10 RD	13 SL	13 SL
16 AC	989 BBS	1111 L	16 G	11 NY	1 HRC	1 KOC	1111 LV	1 M55	1 OPT	6 RE	588 SLA	70 US
ACT 100	33 BC	DAW 11E	40 YJ	1111 LCT	25 PL	1 KOC	1 L	1 M57	32 OR	1 REB	13 UD	13 UD
13 AD	16 BL	DA5 21	21 EJ	1111 LOM	222 HM	2 KEM	21 LV	33 MR	1 ORN	6 REG	123 M	50 VET
2 APR	44 DB	2 EA	1111 LCT	15 WH	88 AS	14 LVN	5 MUD	8 ODO	62M 15	10 RD	13 UD	13 UD
ADS 123	989 B	989 B	989 B	1111 NY	989 HO	1 KEM	1 N	1 MUK	12 Q5	1 RET	100 SP	8 VK
111 AE	11 58MS	55C DC	12 EL	1111 NY	2 MOC	HEL TV	123 M	1 MUK	16 OT	40 RF	2 SP	13 UD
26 AF	17 BN	70 DC	18 LS	25 GA	1 HCY 1E	62M 1	786 MCA	15 M5M	24 OUE	27 RS	100 M	10 M
5 AG	130 BO	11 DCA	60 BA	10 GAV	14 H	60 KEN	80 NAC	13 MUX	13 MUX	200 RGS	100 S	11 W
1 AGR	800 B19	40 DO	113 DM	35 GB	16 HS	5 AL	2 MAG	50 W	13 OY	1 RAG	1 SSB	100 VS
55 AJ	BCP 114	1 DOD	12 ED	66 GC	HS 2	7 KHS	28 MA	100 NA	10 NA	2 R6	2 SSB	100 VS
1 AJS	888 BF	17 DE	35 EP	46 CD	321 HT	4 K	28A 11A	1 MAC	200 B	300	1 SSB	100 VS
111 AJM	30 DB	20 DB	21 DB	62 DB	2 HUR 1B	2 KOC	1 MAC	1 MAC	1 MAC	1 MAC	1 MAC	1 MAC
7 AJS	66 BS	66 BS	66 BS	66 BS	66 BS	66 BS	66 BS	66 BS	66 BS	66 BS	66 BS	66 BS
13 AK	90 BS	332 UTE	13 ET	63B 2	1 HUR 1B	1 HUR 1B	1 HUR 1B	1 HUR 1B	1 HUR 1B	1 HUR 1B	1 HUR 1B	1 HUR 1B
AKO 111	2 BSA	DEL 10C	41 BW	62M 3	1 MUX	1 MUX	1 MUX	1 MUX	1 MUX	1 MUX	1 MUX	1 MUX
19 AL	2 BBS	3 DGN	7 EY	11 GES	19 J	2 KEM	2 MBS	1 MBS	1 MBS	1 MBS	1 MBS	1 MBS
ALL 2C	111 BT	15 DES	41 EY	55 GF	432 L1	1 KEM	400 MB	1 NBS	1 NBS	1 NBS	1 NBS	1 NBS
AVU 11M	11 B	DES 11	EXE 2B	61 P	1 B99 1A	60 BS	2 MBS	1 MBS	1 MBS	1 MBS	1 MBS	1 MBS
111 AM	30 DB	20 DB	21 DB	62 DB	2 HUR 1B	2 KOC	1 MAC	1 MAC	1 MAC	1 MAC	1 MAC	1 MAC
AMBS 1E	321 BV	50 DE	1 F	1 F	1 F	1 F	1 F	1 F	1 F	1 F	1 F	1 F
5 AMS	989 BW	21 DG	11 N2H	132 H	321 JAM	1 KES	2 MBS	1 MBS	1 MBS	1 MBS	1 MBS	1 MBS
200 AN	111 B	3 DGN	111 B	3 DGN	111 B	3 DGN	111 B	3 DGN	111 B	3 DGN	111 B	3 DGN
121 AN	39 C	21 DJ	11 UFS	70 GJ	13 AS	5 EU	2 MBS	11 NFB	21 C	15 RON	111 B	222 WH
111 AN	39 C	21 DJ	11 UFS	70 GJ	13 AS	5 EU	2 MBS	11 NFB	21 C	15 RON	111 B	222 WH
5 AUC	411 C1V	123 DS	50 PA	77 GS	1 ABB	2 KEM	60 NY	1 MAC	1 MAC	1 MAC	1 MAC	1 MAC
AMU 11E	19 CA	1 DDT	FAO 80	KA GC	JB5 100	65 L	2 MBS	1 NBS	11 PEN	80 B	15 AY	40 W
111 AM	19 CA	1 DDT	FAO 80	KA GC	JB5 100	65 L	2 MBS	1 NBS	11 PEN	80 B	15 AY	40 W
71 ANS	19 CA											

Cars you'll be glad to see this holiday

Tony Dawe marvels at Britain's wonderful wealth of motoring collections both great and small



Cars of the Stars has famous vehicles in their film sets

Cars, bumper to bumper, metal wing jostling metal wing: it's a sight to drive road-users to distraction on a Bank Holiday weekend.

But thousands of motoring enthusiasts will be seeking just such an experience over the next few days when they head, not for the traffic-jammed route to holiday resorts, but for the scores of museums where historic machines rest side by side in peace. Visiting them has become as much a part of Bank Holiday weekends as the railbacks on the M5 in the West Country.

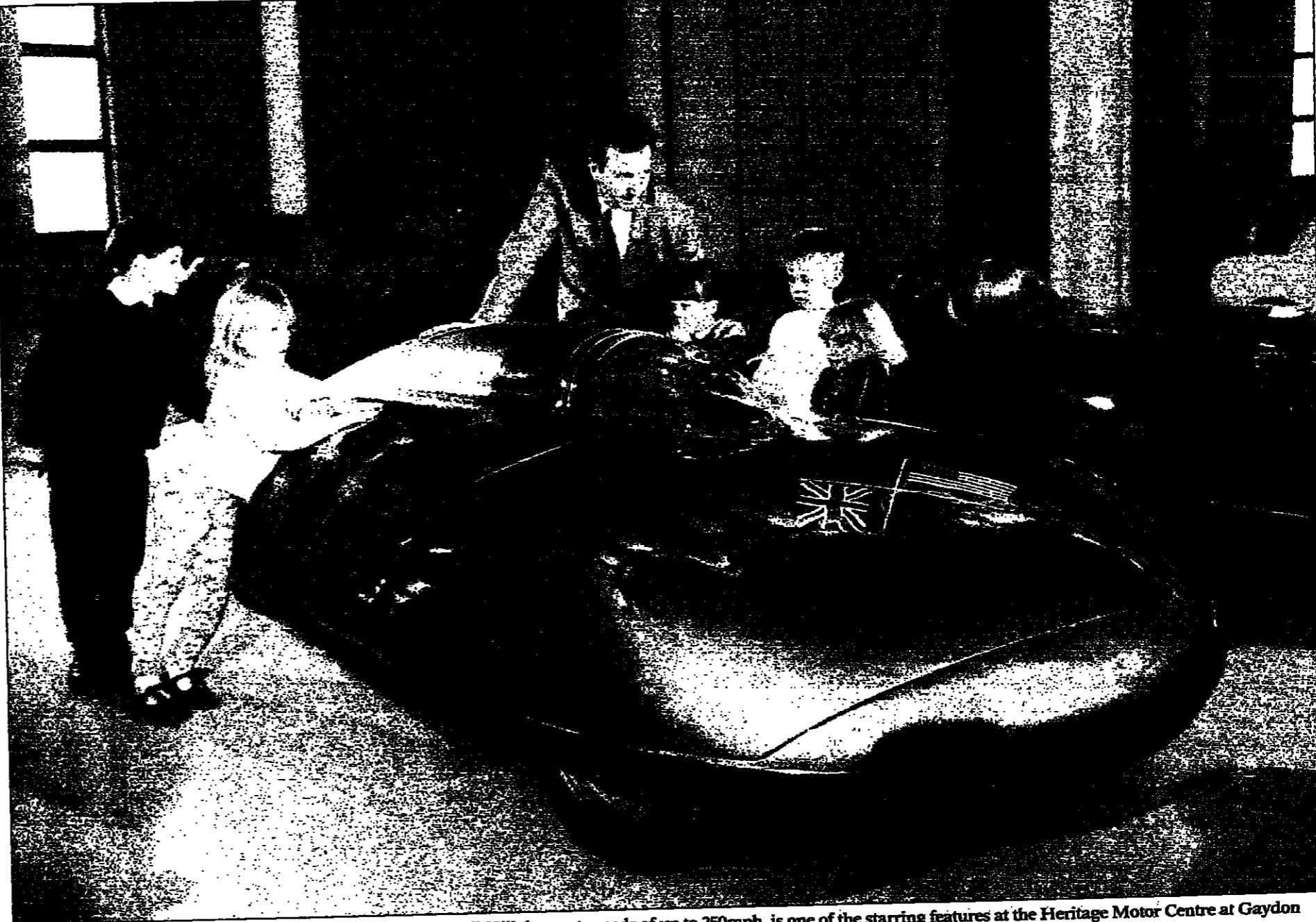
They can be found in splendid parkland settings from Beaulieu, Hampshire, home of the National Motor Museum, to the Bentley Museum, East Sussex, where the vintage cars take second place to a wildfowl enclosure. They brighten city centres in Birmingham, Coventry, Cardiff and Glasgow.

Many are devoted to the machines themselves, from the simple, uncovered bone-shakers of a century ago to the latest electric and gas-powered models. Others, like the unique Cars of the Stars Motor Museum at Kewick in the Lake District and the cluttered Jim Clark Room in Duns, Berwickshire, concen-

trate on the men and women who drove them. Appropriately, some of the finest collections are ideally situated to provide a perfect break on a holiday journey. Returning from the Lake District to London or the South East? Then the Heritage Motor Centre just off the M40 at Gaydon, Warwickshire, promises "the cars of the century, the visit of a lifetime".

The centre, built in 1930s Art Deco style, a period recognised as the most evocative in automotive design, only comes into view as visitors travel along an approach road. They are taken to the first floor entrance aboard a shuttle train pulled by a Land Rover.

Inside they will find 200 vehicles marking motoring milestones, including an 1896 MG, the first Morris Minor, the first Mini and the last Range Rover Classic. Graham Hill's Rover BRM Le Mans racing car, valued at £2 million, takes pride of place in the exhibition along with the 1957 MG XI record car that Stirling Moss



This 1957 MG XI record car, which Stirling Moss and Phil Hill drove at speeds of up to 250mph, is one of the starring features at the Heritage Motor Centre at Gaydon

and Phil Hill drove at speeds of up to 250mph. At Sparkford, south Somerset, just off the A303, the popular

The Haynes Motor Museum includes a number of famous flops

The museum is "run by enthusiasts for enthusiasts", every member of staff having started as a volunteer, and has a homely feel reflected in the collection of familiar Fifties saloons and a number of under-achievers. They include

the Ford Probe, which flopped in its attempt to replace the Capri, and one of only two Rover 3-litre Estates which were intended to rival Volvos but never made it into production.

Several motor museums have grown up in tourist areas, none more spectacularly than Cars of the Stars, developed by Peter Nelson, a Keswick dentist, after he was asked to loan his MG TC to Granada Television for *The Spoils of War* series.

"Early in the planning stage, I decided to show off each of the cars in context with its film and television career," he says. "Therefore, each vehicle is displayed in its individual film set with atmospheric lighting and sound playing a key part."

The collection ranges from one of the Model T Fords which featured in so many escapades with Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy, through Emma Peel's Lotus Elan from *The Avengers* and James Bond's Aston Martins to a

Batmobile stationed in front of the Gotham City skyline.

Some museums have developed in places which might resemble the home town of Batman, Robin and The Joker but they are still worth a visit.

The Museum of British Road Transport in Coventry contains the largest display of British-manufactured vehicles in the world, boasting a £15 million collection of more than 150 cars, 75 motorcycles and 200 bicycles.

Visitors find their way into the main display halls through a series of tableaux called "Memory Lanes" which capture the atmosphere of early motoring in 1900, the grandeur of the saloon cars of the 1930s, and regal vehicles used by Queen Mary and King George VI.

Above a showroom containing classic cars in Leeds Road, Huddersfield, is the Automobilia collection of Brian and Sylvia Collins, moved from its

old home in Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire, to more spacious surroundings. A splendid group of Austin 7s line the walls together with pre-war Morris and MG models, ancient tricycles and bicycles and much motoring memorabilia.

Men like Haynes, Nelson and Collins have taken up the challenge to preserve our motoring history that was first thrown down by Lord Montagu 45 years ago when he opened his home at Beaulieu

to the public and included a small collection of cars.

The National Motor Museum, as it has become, now houses more than 250 cars, commercial vehicles and motorcycles which tell the story of motoring from 1895 until today. The museum and its surrounding attractions are spectacular, but dozens of much smaller displays around the British Isles will also satisfy a lust for motoring nostalgia this weekend.

A TIMES NEWSPAPERS COMPETITION

Play Fantasy Formula One

Prizes worth £40,000



Tomorrow's Belgian Grand Prix is the 12th race in our £40,000 Fantasy Formula One competition and the fourth race offering bonus prizes. Heading our leaderboard after the Hungarian GP is D Gwilt from Wolverhampton. His team, Gwilt FI, has 7,943 points after scoring 744 points at the Hungarian Grand Prix at Budapest.

TO ENTER If you have not yet entered a team into our £40,000 competition use the panel, below right, to make three selections from each of the four groups and call 0891 405 001 (+44 990 100 311 outside the UK).

THE PRIZES The manager with the best team score after the European Grand Prix on October 26, will win the first prize of £25,000 courtesy of our sponsor Marlboro World Championship team. Prizes of £10,000 and £5,000 will go to two

runners-up. The manager with the most points in the Belgian Grand Prix will win a trip for two to next year's British Grand Prix. The runner-up gets a Sony PlayStation and CD-Rom game.

TRANSFERS You can change up to four selections before the Italian Grand Prix by calling 0891 555 994 (+44 990 100 394 ex UK) before noon Thursday, September 4. Your new team must have three selections from each of groups A, B, C and D. The first three drivers you select will be your prediction for the Luxembourg Grand Prix bonus points.

CHECK YOUR SCORE

Check your score and position on our leaderboard after the Belgian Grand Prix on 0891 884 648 (+44 990 100 348 ex UK) with your 10-digit PIN number. Lines will open on Wednesday.



OUR LEADERBOARD AFTER THE HUNGARIAN GRAND PRIX

POS	TEAM NAME	MANAGER NAME	POINTS
1	Gwilt FI	D Gwilt	7943
2	Aston O	L Ackland	7932
3	Dragon Racing	R Davis	7901
4	Smith-Astra	D Smith	7885
5	Coolspot	D Coolican	7880
6	Parkhurst Racing	L Danson	7874
7	The Tigglers		7810
7	Cathy's Clowns	C Robinson	7810
7	Bezzotti Racing	A Scott	7810
7	F1 Erb	S Erhorn	7810
11	Beck's Racing Team	M Kingdon	7807
12	Dow Jones 2	I Dowdy	7795
13	Scuderia Vincitore	S J Lorient	7794
14	Sour Mash	R Owens	7766
15	Cartell Racing	S Dimetto	7762
16	F1 Autopoint	C Russell	7758
17	Slickhead 3	A Bradley	7727
18	Formula Uno	P Tabone	7725
19	Will And Nerve	A Mewes	7725
20	Go Speed Racer	L Gardner	7713
21	Freaks	F Rutkowski	7704
22	Meadows Racing	R Oaker	7696
23	Midnight Rovers	C Newman	7691
23	Cyclops	R Bohee	7691

MAKE 3 SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THESE FOUR GROUPS

The first column of figures in light type after the names shows the Fantasy Formula One Hungarian GP race scores, the second column the total competition points so far

DRIVERS GROUP A

01 D Hill	154	752	07 M Hakkinen	25	870
02 M Schumacher	137	1334	08 D Coulthard	74	872
03 J Villeneuve	186	1094	09 R Barrichello	35	521
04 E Irvine	113	979	10 H-H Prenzler	60	896
05 J Alesi	117	1208	11 J Herbert	155	906
06 G Berger	123	921	12 M Salo	120	889

DRIVERS GROUP B

13 J Trulli	134	1244	18 G Fisichella	48	993
14 J Verstappen	60	773	20 S Nakano	148	835
15 U Katayama	137	684	21 G Morbidelli	9	940
16 P Dintz	51	530	22 T Magnussen	127	725
17 R Rosset	0	0	23 J Magnussen	5	515
18 R Schumacher	146	809	24 V Sotgiu	0	0

CONSTRUCTORS GROUP C

25 Williams	20	127	31 Arrows	15	84
26 Ferrari	13	188	32 Sauber	14	112
27 McLaren	20	84	33 Tyrrell	4	0
28 Benetton	19	204	34 Minardi	17	36
29 Jordan	12	106	35 Stewart	-80	-119
30 Prost	21	134	36 Lola	0	0

*Rule 2 applies. Jarno Trulli of Minardi replaces Olivier Panis in the Prost team. Taro Marques replaces Trulli at Minardi and at Sauber Gianni Morbidelli, who originally replaced Nicola Larini, replaces Fontana

FANTASY FORMULA ONE 24-HOUR ENTRY LINE: 0891 405 001

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0891 calls cost 50p per minute (standard tariffs apply to +44 990 calls)

CHANGING TIMES

TIMES CHOICE OF 20 MUSEUMS TO VISIT IN THE UK

1 Grampian Transport Museum, Alford, Aberdeenshire. Extensive collection of historic vehicles, climb aboard exhibits for children include vintage road roller, snowplough and driving simulator. Open daily 10am-5pm. Adults £2.75, children £1.25.

2 Doune Motor Museum, Doune, Perthshire. Developed from Earl of Moray's collection of cars, including Hispano-Suiza, Bentley, Lagonda and Rolls Royce models. Classic car rally today and tomorrow. Open daily 10am-5pm. Adults £3, children £2.

3 Myrton Motor Museum, Aberlady, East Lothian. Collection dating from 1897, including cars, cycles, motorcycles and World War II military vehicles including an autocar. Open daily 10am-5.30pm. Adults £3.00, children £2.00.

4 Museum of Transport, Kelvin Hall, Glasgow. Cars from 1920s to modern times, motorcycles, Glasgow trams and buses and fire engines. Open today 10am-5pm, tomorrow 11am-5pm, Monday and Wednesday to Friday 10am-5pm. Free.

5 Newburn Hall Motor Museum, Newburn, Newcastle upon Tyne. Vintage cars and motorcycles from the early 1920s onwards, including some from well-known firms, all in period buildings. Open Tuesday to Sunday 10am-6pm and Bank Holiday Monday. Adults £3, children £1.

6 Cars of the Stars Motor Museum, Kewick, Cumbria. Collection of cars from famous drivers including James Bond's Aston Martins and Del Boy's Reliant van. Open daily, 10am-5pm. Adults £3, children £2.

7 Lakeland Motor Museum, Holker Hall, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria. Collection of 150 vehicles including Bluebird Exhibition featuring Sir Malcolm and Donald Campbell's world speed record achievements. Open Sunday to Friday, 10.30am-4.45pm. Adults £5.75, children £3.50.

8 Automobilia Transport Museum, The Heritage Centre, Leeds Road, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire. Collection of cars spanning seven decades above a classic car showroom. Open daily, 9am-6pm.



except Sundays 11am-4pm. Donations welcome, with suggested prices of: adults £2, children £1.

9 Lincolnshire Road Transport Museum, North Hykeham, Lincoln. Contains 45 vehicles from 1926 Austin 12 to 1970s models and the best collection of pre-war Leyland buses. Open Sunday 10am-4pm, Monday to Friday 12noon-4pm, closed Saturdays. Free.

10 Betws-Y-Coed Motor Museum, Gwynedd, North Wales. Early 1930s sports cars, all rare or exotic, plus child's racing car and jet engine. Open daily 10am-6pm. Adults £1.30, children £0.80.

11 Donington Grand Prix Collection, Castle Donington, Derbyshire. Unique selection of racing cars including some driven by Stirling Moss, Graham Hill and Nigel Mansell, situated alongside race circuit. Open daily 9.30am-5.30pm. Adults £7, children £2.50.

12 Museum of British Road Transport, Sparkford, Somerset. Largest display of British-made vehicles in the world reflecting city's status as birthplace of British motor industry. Open daily 10am-5pm. Adults £3.30, children £2.30.

13 Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire. Comprehensive collection of historic and classic British vehicles plus engineering and art gallery and 1930s garage scene. Open daily 10am-5pm. Adults £5.50, children £3.50.

14 Welsh Industrial and Maritime Museum, Butte Street, Cardiff. Century of Motoring Exhibition until October. Horse-drawn vehicles, buses, cars and motorbikes. Trevithick's 1804 Penydarren locomotive. Open Tuesday to Sunday 10am-5pm and Bank Holiday Monday. Adults £2.25, children £1.25.

15 Automobilia, St Austell, Cornwall. Collection of more than 50 vehicles from 1920s to 1980s. Open daily 10am-5pm. Adults £3.00, children £1.50.

16 Haynes Motor Museum, Sparkford, near Yeovil, Somerset. Far-reaching collection from a 1900 Camery to a 1930s Duesenberg and including the Red Hat full of sports cars. Open daily 9.30am-5.30pm. Adults £4.50, children £2.75.

17 National Motor Museum, Beaulieu, Hampshire. World-famous collection of more than 250 vehicles with the newest displays featuring a 1950s country garage and an interactive gallery for the children. Open daily 10am-6pm. Adults £8.50, children £5.00.

18 Brooklands Museum, Weybridge, Surrey. Features the famous banked track where racing history was made between the wars plus the cars of the period. Open daily 10am-5pm. Adults £6, children £4.

19 Bentley Wildfowl and Motor Museum, Holland, near Lewes, East Sussex. Vintage, veteran and Edwardian vehicles on a country estate with pease, ducks and swans. Open daily 10.30am-5pm. Adults £4.10, children £2.50.

20 Ramsgate Motor Museum, West Cliff Hall, Ramsgate, Kent. Cars from a 1900 Benz to a Sinclair C5 plus motorcycles from throughout the century displayed in scenes depicting the past. Open daily 10.30am-5.30pm. Adults £2.50, children 50p.

Anniversary of Russia's first race

St Petersburg or bust... and most often bust

Russia has never shown a particularly bright future in the automobile world. Before the 1917 revolution, it only had one notable manufacturer — the Russo-Baltique from the Port of Riga — and has since relied heavily on hand-me-down designs from foreign producers, from Ford to Packard to Fiat. However, this month marks the 90th anniversary of the vast country's first proper motor race, an epic struggle over the 450 miles of appalling roads linking Moscow to St Petersburg.

The 26-strong entry list was a curious assortment of giant racing "cars", medium-sized touring cars and a variety of motorcycles, several of which were of Russian manufacture, which was more than could be said of the 14 four-wheeled contestants, most of which were French-built, apart from two huge Mercedes, a Fiat and a lone 20hp Buick.

Even though the event started at 2am — at that time of the year it was light all night — 18 miles outside Moscow, the novelty of the occasion attracted a tremendous crowd. The competitors were sent off at two-minute intervals and had to pass through six controls en route to Tsarskoe Sebe, 18 miles outside St Petersburg, where the Tsar had a palace.

The first half of the route was comparatively easy, and the larger cars hit high speeds, but the final stages to St Petersburg badly rattled. The winning 60hp De Dietrich of Arthur Duray, which completed the distance in 9hr 22min at an average speed of nearly 47mph, escaped without



In two weeks today, 96 cars will set off from Beijing, bound for Paris in a re-run of the 10,000-mile challenge that brought the motor car to world attention in 1907. Among the participants, driving a 1914 Prince Henry Vauchall, the oldest car competing in the event, will be Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, left, who will be sending in regular progress reports for CAR 97. But the Beijing to Paris event was not the first great pioneering motor race of 1907, as he tells here.

breakdown, though he declared: "In the latter part of my trip, I ran over a dog and this took some time to clear."

He was still two hours faster than the crack Moscow-St Petersburg express train: "Once more road has beaten rail," crowed the magazine *La Vie Automobile*. The second car home, a 30hp CGV driven by Champoiseau, also got through without mechanical problems, though it arrived 2hr 40min after the leader.

Other competitors were not so fortunate. B. Parrich, driving a Brasier, spent six hours repairing his car, while Domier, in a car of the same make, ended up in a ditch just nine miles out of Moscow, with a badly injured mechanic. A third Brasier, driven by Lichinsky, broke down so frequently that it failed to arrive for several days.

Most of the motorcycles

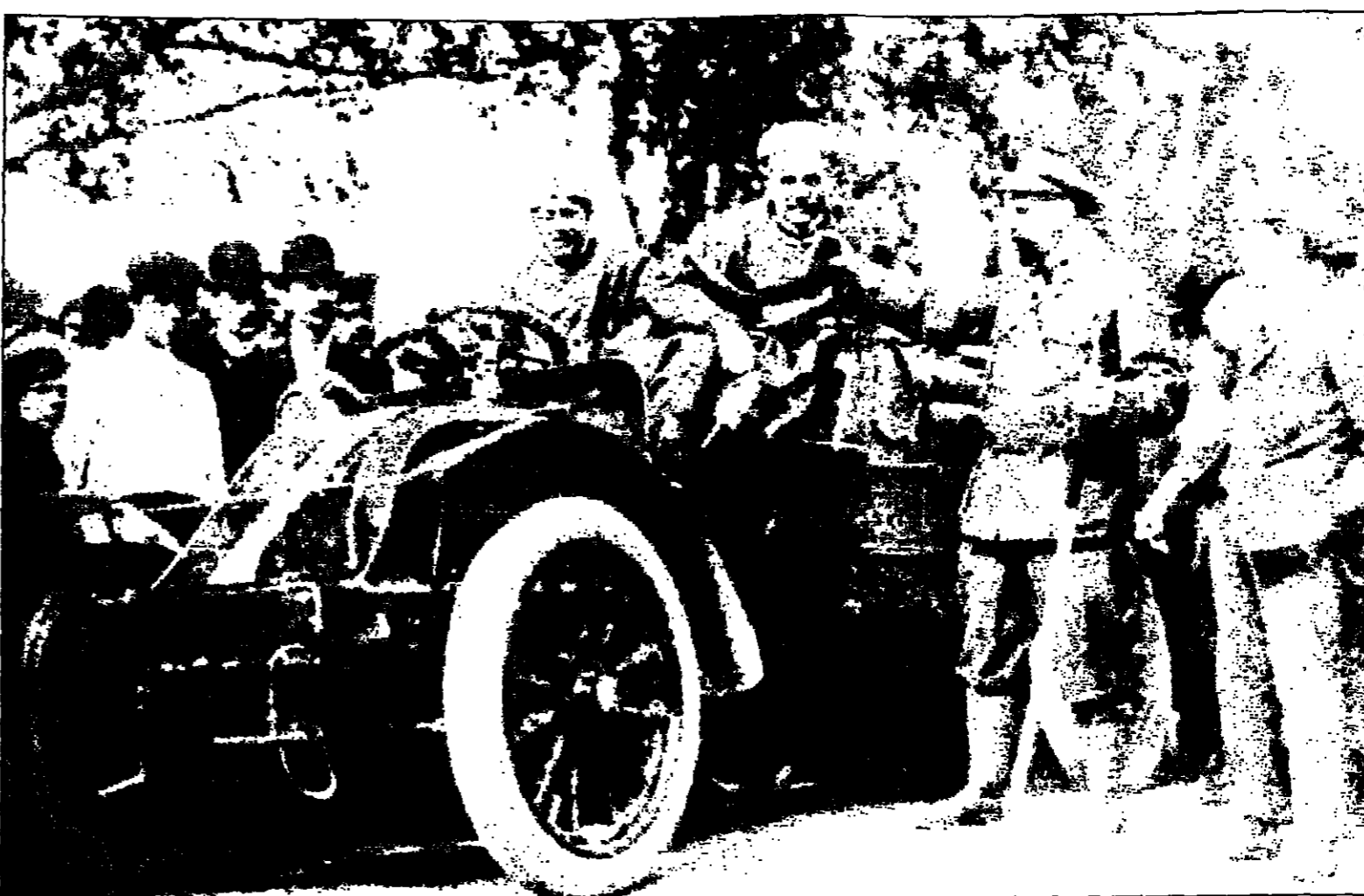


Russian peasant spectators await the race — the event attracted massive interest

broke down, and only one finished without damage. The event had been run in conjunction with the St Petersburg Motor Show, and a sizeable crowd turned out to watch the finish. They were astounded by Duray's time.

A vivid picture of the event was painted by Arthur Bray, who rode as mechanic to the English driver, Charles Jarrott, in the 1908 version of the race, which was run in the opposite direction. "Dust! Dust in your eyes, your nose,

your hair. Blinding dust mixed with the stones thrown up by the cars ahead, the stench of hot oil and the smoke belching from their exhausts and the whine of the driving chains in your ears. A straight road... 450 miles, never end-



Champoiseau's 30hp CGV came second, finishing the race without suffering a breakdown, though it arrived 2hr 40min after the leader

ing, with the hot morning sun in June glaring down on dust alone, and the desolation of that long Russian highway.

"No side paths, a few trees clustered in places, and for miles on either side stubble fields on which those trailing dust clouds finally settled."

Their car was a larger version of the 1907-winning De Dietrich, a 120hp car that had already set records on the Brooklands track.

It had been fitted with a panoply of suspension aids, though another British racer, H. R. Pope, claimed that the only springs capable of withstanding Russian roads were made by Russian blacksmiths, and had fitted these to his Itala.

Recalled Bray: "By lam it was fully lit, and all the entrants were on the line. We mingled with great men at the game. At 1.50am we were sent

off... Jarrott piled on the speed. At the first control, Tserna, we learnt we had done second fastest time. It certainly felt like it.

The map said it was a road; a track would have been a better description. It consisted of miles of loose stones, boulders occasionally, and then those wonderful little steel bridges at intervals, which at any speed over 40 lifted you right off your seat and dropped you again in a different position. Bray had filled his pockets with marbles, which he threw at the crew of a car they wanted to overtake when it slowed down for a bridge.

Gradually, the terrible roads shook the De Dietrich apart: "We now had only one road spring intact: miles astern the detachable uphol-

stery had become permanently detached, and now nothing was left but the metal back and the square metal edge of the seat toolbox to sit on."

Finally, at Valдай, about halfway to Moscow, the car and its crew could go no further. "During the day there slowly trickled into that village other disappointed and broken drivers and mechanics, until, in the station bar on the lonely railway, there was formed the Automobile Club de Valдай, with Charles Jarrott as president."

When Jarrott and Bray decanted from the slow night train in Moscow, they found that Victor Hemery had won the race at an average of over 50mph in a Grand Prix Benz and only ten out of 29 starters had finished that "veritable test to destruction" — including H. R. Pope's Itala with its Russian springs.

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